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STEAM VOYAGE

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THE DANUBE.

WITH

SKETCHES OF HUNGARY, WALLACHIA, SERVIA, TURKEY, ETC.

BY MICHAEL J. QUIN,

AUTHOR OF "A VISIT TO SPAIN."

THIRD EDITION.

WITH ADDITIONS.

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TO MRS. MICHAEL J. QUIN.

To you I dedicate this volume, trusting that you may find in it some compensation for my late absence from a Home where, as you well know, all my happiness resides. When our dear children shall be able to read this work, you will tell them that *their* interests only could have detained me from that home during the five months necessarily occupied in my journey.

Always most affectionately yours,

20*th July*, 1835. MICHAEL J. QUIN.

PREFACE

TO THE THIRD EDITION.

SINCE the first and second editions of this work were published, several gentlemen have called upon me, to inquire whether the navigation by steam has been yet completed from Presburg to Constantinople. It may be useful, therefore, here to state that the steam-boats do not yet regularly proceed further down the Danube than Galaez. The vessel intended to carry on the intercourse from that place to the Bosphorus had been fitted out and dispatched from Trieste in the autumn of 1834. But in the mean time, the object which the Danube Company had in view is for the present frustrated; and the vessel in question has been since employed as a packet between Constantinople and Smyrna.

The Russian government, it appears, has refused permission for the steam-boats of the Danube Company to pass through any of the embouchures of that river into the Black Sea without the payment of a toll. The whole delta of the river became exclusively Russian, under the treaty of Adrianople; and military pontons have been recently established across the navigable mouths of the Danube, with a view to prevent vessels of any description from entering the Black Sea in that quarter, unless they submit to the conditions exacted by the Russian authorities.

It is certain that neither Austria nor Great Britain will recognise any right on the part of the Autocrat to enforce the

toll in question. The free navigation of the Danube was secured to Austrian merchant vessels by special treaty with Turkey: and we contend for the same privilege under the last treaty of general peace signed at Vienna, whereby the free navigation of all the great European rivers was assented to by all the contracting parties, Russia being amongst them, at no higher rate of duties than was then lawfully established. But there having been then no tolls levied at the mouths of the Danube, such an impost cannot now be maintained. The question is still under discussion.

In the mean time those merchants who proceed to the Danube for the purpose of trading with Hungary, Wallachia, Moldavia, Turkey, or Servia, should refuse to pay the tolls which will be demanded of them—or at least should pay them under protest.

The traveller, however, who wishes to become acquainted with the most interesting parts of the Danube, navigable by the steam-boats, will have no cause to regret this strange proceeding on the part of the Russian government. The banks of that magnificent river are wholly devoid of interest below Vidin. Its beauties commence at Belgrade; and from Moldava to Gladova, those wild and sublime scenes occur, which I have attempted to describe in the following pages.

The reader will find in this edition a considerable proportion of new and, I should hope, not uninteresting matter.

1st February, 1836. M. J. Q.

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CHAPTER I.

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A

STEAM VOYAGE DOWN THE DANUBE,

ETC.

CHAPTER I.

Arrival at Pesth—Embarkation on board the Steam-boat—Congress of Hungarian Ladies—General appearance of Pesth—Buda—Bridge over the Danube—Commerce of Pesth—Public Buildings—Appearance of Buda—Fair at Pesth—Dealers at the Fair—The Shops—The Booths—Display of Goods—Horse-market—Pottery—The Merchants—Mills on the Danube—Fruit-boats—Wool-waggons—Wicker Carriages.

While I was preparing at Paris, towards the close of last summer, for a journey to Constantinople by the ordinary and very fatiguing course overland through Vienna, Semlin, and Belgrade, I was informed that steam-boats had been recently established on the Danube, which would enable me to descend that river to the Black Sea, and thence to the Bosphorus. The hope of accomplishing my object by a route so novel, so attractive in itself, and so convenient in every respect, was too tempting to be resisted. I therefore lost no time in repairing to Vienna; and as the scenery of the Danube possesses but little interest between Presburg, where the steam navigation begins, and Pesth, the modern capital of Hungary, I preferred embarking at the latter place. I accordingly arrived there by the light of a brilliant moon, an hour or two after midnight, on the 24th of September, 1834; and, as a variety

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of rumours had met me on the road, some stating that the steam-boat, or dampshiffe, as it is called in that country, had been destroyed by its own engines, others that it had bulged on the rocks, or remained fixed fast in the sandy bed of the river from the want of water, it was with no small pleasure that I discovered the vessel of which I came in pursuit, anchored quietly within the shade of the bridge of boats that still forms the communication between Pesth and Buda.

The inns having been all shut up for the night, I was obliged to proceed without ceremony on board, through a crowd of carriages, packages, and cases of all descriptions, which were huddled together on the bank, with a view to transportation by the steamer to different towns on the Danube. The guardians of the vessel were all wrapped in sleep so imperturbable, that I could find nobody to marshal me the way to a berth in the cabin. Having been without sleep myself for thirty-four hours, I was not at all indisposed to follow the example of these worthy sentinels, the more especially when, on penetrating to the cabin, I found it almost entirely pre-occupied by passengers stretched on benches, in full enjoyment of the same "sweet oblivion," amidst piles of boxes, trunks, cloaks, shawls, baskets, hat-cases, stools, and tables, congregated in "most admired confusion." By the glimmering light of a lamp which was suspended from the roof, I at length discerned a vacant corner, and having doubled up a seat-cushion, by way of pillow, and arranged another as no mean apology for a bed, I threw myself upon it, wrapped in my cloak, resolved to subside at once into profound repose.

But scarcely had I forgotten that I was slumbering on the Danube, when there arose, all of a sudden, such a storm of tongues, and such an uproar of laughter around me, that I felt for a moment as if, in punishment for my sins, I had been imprisoned in some enchanted chamber, where sleep was especially prohibited. At first the voices sounded as though they were distant from the cabin; but before I could exactly settle

with myself the question, whether I was waking or dreaming, in they rushed, chattering away as if they had all the world to themselves. Morning was still far below the horizon, and I, of course, concluded that our invaders would soon be tired of their rather premature entertainment. But vain were all calculations of that description; anecdote followed anecdote; interrogatory—answer—reply—rejoinder—sur-reply and sur-rejoinder—slight titter—partial laughter—general shouts—coursed each other with indefatigable speed round the circle of this noisy congress, until the broad daylight streamed through the windows, and dissipated every hope of peace. I was shocked at my ungallant thoughts, when I surveyed my fair enemies, and found that there were amongst them two or three really pretty Hungarian ladies. I confess,—God forgive me!—that I had more than once wished them all at the antipodes.

Pesth looks extremely well from the Danube. It is for the most part built in a modern style of architecture; several of the public edifices, and even of the private mansions, are splendid. The national casino, or club-house, forms a distinguished feature of the city, which has been wonderfully improved during the last ten or fifteen years. Presburg is the nominal capital of Hungary; but it has, in the estimation of a Hungarian, one fault which nothing can redeem—it is near Vienna. It has been, therefore, long superseded by Pesth, as to all matters which concern the sciences and arts, as well as the assemblages and amusements of the higher classes. Here they spend their fashionable season, give their balls, carry on their flirtations, and plan both their private and public intrigues.

Buda, or, as the Hungarians call it, Ofen, on the opposite side of the river, is connected with Pesth by a bridge of forty-seven large boats, united by chains and floored with planks. The bridge is said to be three hundred yards in length; it is so constructed that two or three boats with their flooring may

be separated from the rest, in order to let the vessels pass which go up and down the Danube. In the winter, when large bodies of ice are in motion from the higher parts of the river, it becomes necessary to take away the bridge altogether; thus, during a part of that season, the communication is almost wholly interrupted between the two towns, until the river is entirely frozen over and the ice affords a secure passage. Now, as Buda is just as social and as merry a place as Pesth, and has its own balls and assemblies of every kind, the ladies of both towns were easily prevailed upon to give their "sweet voices" in favour of a project which some enlightened Hungarians have had in view some time, for erecting a stone bridge across the Danube, in place of the bridge of boats, so that there should be no suspension of the gay intercourse between the two divisions of the capital at any season of the year. In order to accomplish this object, it was necessary to provide that the expense of the bridge should be defrayed by a toll, from which no person could claim exemption. Never was such an innovation as this heard of since the Danube began its course! Hungarian noblemen had been hitherto privileged by their rank from the payment of taxes of every description. But the ladies on both sides of the river were resolved that their winter amusements should be no longer liable to interruption; and so they worried their fathers, husbands, brothers, lovers, who happened to be members of the diet, until at length the measure was carried—and a stone bridge they are to have. Slight as this incident may seem to an Englishman, it will probably, as the projectors intended it should do—lead the way to many useful reforms in that country, on account of the principle of equal taxation which it has established.

Pesth, the Transacincum of the Romans, is the seat of commerce, and is said to contain about 40,000 inhabitants. It is divided into the old and new town, and, as when visited by Dr. Bright some twenty years ago, "the streets were busy,

filled with a motley crowd, chiefly dealers and peasants, some in their holiday dresses, but the greater part wrapped in thick cloaks. The native merchants sat smoking at their shop-doors, a bale of tobacco on this side, a huge tub of caviare upon the other; the baker with a light basket on his shoulders trotted briskly from street to street, announcing his approach by the shrill sound of a small wooden trumpet; and Jews, Armenians, and Turks, each in the costume of their country, formed themselves promiscuously into parties. A few private carriages rolled through the streets; rustic waggons, drawn by oxen, moved slowly on; and *fiacres*, of which the number was very great, had taken up their stations in all the cross-ways and open places, each framed after the same pattern, in the form of an antiquated square calash."

They have two theatres at Pesth, one for German performances, built on a large scale and somewhat in the antique style; the other, upon a much more limited plan, for Hungarian plays. Between the acts of the latter, pieces of national music are given on the Dudelsack, the Hungarian bagpipe, which is usually adorned in front with a goat's head, and covered with a goat's skin, accompanied by several other instruments to which bells are attached, after the Turkish fashion. Another favourite instrument in Hungary is the Langspiel, which Sir George Mackenzie also met with in Iceland. It is about two feet long, and being placed upon a table, the performer strikes the cords with a stick.

Buda, or Ofen, is the seat of the Hungarian Government, and is nearly as populous as Pesth. The fortress seen on the lower rock contains the palaces of the Archduke Palatine, and of several Hungarian nobles, the public arsenal and theatre, several churches, and seems indeed a complete town in itself. Upon the higher rock, called the Bloksberg, an observatory has been erected. A handsome street runs along the side of the river; other streets with gardens run in different directions, ornamented by well-built churches.

The two towns seen from the river produce rather an imposing effect.

Besides the theatres there are coffee-houses and several public gardens at Pesth and Buda, which are much frequented. There is a magnificent walk shaded by trees, along the western ramparts of Buda, which is crowded when the weather is favourable. A similar walk has been constructed on the Pesth side of the Danube. The great season of amusement, as in every part of the continent, is the Carnival, when there are public balls in both towns twice a-week, besides numerous private assemblies, at which recitations are a favourite entertainment. In summer the favourite place for afternoon excursions is the "forest," as it is called, which is in fact a garden and shrubbery, laid out with considerable taste. It commands some fine views of Buda.

A very curious spectacle at Pesth is the fair, which is held four times in the year in a large open space within the town, where a vast quantity of manufactured goods, chiefly brought from Vienna, is exposed for sale. The genuine riches of Hungary, which are to be found in its agricultural produce, are exhibited at the same time in several streets of the suburbs. An anonymous Hungarian writer drew up a very correct and graphic description of the summer fair of 1812, which applies to every assemblage there of this nature. As it exhibits this species of commercial traffic in one of its earlier stages, it will be read with interest.

"The greater part of the dealers from Vienna and the upper country arrived between the 13th and 15th August, or came after the fair of Debretzin (an important town not far from the borders of Transylvania) was concluded. The regular frequenters of the fair have their shops or booths hired by the year, in which they are accustomed to sleep, partly to save the expense of lodging, and partly for the security of their goods. Those who come for the first time must seek some advantageous place to display their merchandize.

"The best and principal shops are found in the Bridge Street (the chief street on entering over the bridge from Ofen), in the three side-streets which lead from that street to the fair, and in the new, large, and substantially-built houses around the fair itself, which forms an extensive and regular square. In the course of the first week, booths were erected for the dealers who lived in the town; and those who had come from a distance established themselves in theirs, which were frequently of very considerable dimensions. The great spirit of the market was chiefly confined to the shops. Merchants who resided in the distant parts of Hungary, in the neighbouring countries, and in the Turkish provinces, came to pay for the goods which they had purchased six, nine, or twelve months before, and to make new bargains on the same terms.

"The booths were so disposed, that a carriage-road was left, crossing the open place at right-angles, and dividing it into four squares, which were again divided by passages and streets. At each end of the chief streets stood a fire-engine, with vessels full of water, and a guard of invalids. In the booths of the first square, haberdashery wares, hats, and clothes for both sexes, were exposed for sale; and the name of each street was written on the corners, as Lady's, King's, or Palatine's street. In the second square were exhibited hats, women's shoes, boots, furriers' goods, gloves, and other articles of this description. In the third and fourth, iron-ware and cloth were the chief articles. On the left hand of the fair was a small place covered with booths, where the Greeks offered their goods for sale, particularly cloth, leather, and linens. In other booths nothing but fishing-tackle was sold. In another place to the right of the fair, towards the Landstrasse, were exposed linen goods of all descriptions, and to the left, were sights and puppet-shows. Further on in the Landstrasse were seen immense stores of wool, partly in waggons, and partly in houses employed as magazines. The value of the whole wool was estimated at five millions of florins.

Other magazines in different places contained many thousand eimers(1) of spirits, or were filled with tobacco, which the peasants likewise brought in waggons, or bound together in bales.

"Without the Hatyan gate, on both sides of a road, extending about half a mile, a motley variety of goods was displayed, chiefly the produce of the country, as flax, hemp, large heaps of tallow, and complete walls of new wine casks, and coarse linen. These for the most part were sold in the waggons, the traders placing four of them to form a square, and covering the intermediate space with boards, or with a piece of coarse cloth,—in this way, without further expense, constructing a temporary habitation. Here and there a little party of Jews had established themselves, whose whole materials for traffic perhaps consisted of a small stock of old iron. Dealing is not the only business which is pursued at this place, for between the waggons and the bales of goods, sheds are raised, in which gypsies offer refreshments, in appearance as little attractive as the brown hands by which they are presented. In these little huts, and around them, people from all the different nations which inhabit Hungary take refuge; some regale themselves on the viands prepared in the kitchen of the gypsy; others enjoy a rich melon or a piece of fat which they have brought with them; while others are content with the charms of indolence. This part of the scene, which may be deemed a foretaste of the East, is rendered full of activity by the countless multitude of horses and waggons, by which the buyers, the sellers, the gypsies, and the merchandize have been brought to the spot.

"Still farther, and approaching the place of public execution, stands a complete fortification of waggons prepared for sale without the iron-work, waggons which are loaded with others taken to pieces. To the right the eye wanders amidst

(1) A Hungarian measure equivalent to nine gallons and nearly nine-tenths.

extensive flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, the latter of which sometimes amount to the number of 30,000.

"Forwards to the left is the horse-market, the extreme end of which is formed into a circle by waggons placed together, partly designed for sale, and partly the vehicles which have brought the dealers and the spectators. The horses which have been broken in, and are offered to sale, form another circle; the other part of the space is surrounded with strong paling, and is divided into many partitions, each containing from thirty to forty untrained horses. These are purchased from their appearance, without any opportunity being afforded for a more minute examination. At the gate of each partition stand five or six grooms armed with long poles, with which, when a horse is to be taken, they enter the drove, sending the animals in all directions, until the one which is required has separated itself, and taken refuge in a corner. Here the grooms throw a noose over its head; and, according as it is more or less wild, either secure it by a halter to one that is already accustomed to the bridle, or throw it down, bind it, and carry it away upon a waggon.

"Another part of the fair, which is well worthy of observation, is upon the bank of the Danube from the bridge upwards. Here the finer kinds of pottery are sold in booths, and the inferior sorts are exposed for sale either upon the vessels themselves, or piled like cannon-balls upon the shore. An extent of above half-a-mile in length is covered with boats and barges, which serve, together with the banks of the river, as the market-place for the goods they bring. Many are loaded with wooden ware from Upper Austria, of which some, as common casks and rough besoms, are of so trifling a value that it is difficult to conceive how they repay the expense of carriage. In other vessels, or upon the shore, gaily painted household furniture of every species is displayed, tempting the country people by its rich colours to purchase.

"Below the bridge the ordinary weekly market is held,

rendered at this time more lively by the sale of delicious water-melons, of which immense heaps lie piled upon the shore, and many boats and waggons are entirely laden with them. They are sold for two or three kreutzers each, and scarcely a child or a beggar is seen in the streets who does not satisfy both his hunger and his thirst with this delightful fruit.

"Of the places of amusement, the theatre is most frequented, and on Sundays and holidays the people flock to the forest belonging to the town—a small but agreeable pleasure-ground, where the lower classes amuse themselves with dancing in a saloon erected for that purpose. The garden of Count Ortzy, at the distance of three or four English miles from Pesth, is open to the public; and there are several gardens in the suburbs. The public baths likewise become a place of great resort to all the lower classes, being esteemed both as a pleasure and as the means of health."

A writer in the "Hungarian Miscellany" describes with considerable animation the mode in which the business of the fair is carried on. "The manner in which the Hungarian peasant conducts himself in the sale of his produce is, when compared to that of the Sclavonian, the German, and the Jew, with whom he is surrounded, remarkable and interesting. The Sclavonian enlarges on the excellence and cheapness of his wares with palpable and suspicious eagerness. The German dresses out his merchandize, turns it from one side to the other, and presents himself to the purchasers with a commanding self-sufficiency. The Jew swears with heart and soul that he will injure no man; and the Raitzer is stern, silent, and unaccommodating, but on that account his stern and fiery eye pleads with greater eloquence. The Hungarian alone keeps himself perfectly passive in his dealings. He allows his goods to be inspected, answers shortly and directly to the question, and attempts not to impose either by words or artifice. You perceive by his embarrassment that he is

unaccustomed to low arts; his good-temper evidently counteracts the feeling of poverty, which is therefore borne with ease and content. Shirt and skin and little else are to be seen, except his long hair, which hangs loosely over his shoulders; and all these are scarcely to be distinguished from each other, so disguised are they by filth and negligence. The appearance, in drizzling weather, of the open square at the entrance of the *Konigstrasse*, which is the district of the Jews, is little more attractive than the quarter frequented by the peasants. Whoever feels inclined to study the character of this people, will now find an ample opportunity. Here they swarm together like bees, fix themselves on the passenger who appears likely to trade with them, or traffic amongst themselves with affected grimaces and an assumed appearance of activity; while they look, with their eyes turned both towards the right and towards the left, on a hundred objects at a time."

Our cargo of carriages, dry goods, and passengers having been at length all duly arranged, our paddles began to circulate at seven o'clock, instead of four, which was the hour appointed, and we proceeded on our voyage. The morning was splendid. As we moved along we passed by several of those curious flour-mills with which the Danube is crowded. These floating machines are very simple in their construction. A wooden house is erected in a large clumsy boat, moored near the spot where the river is most rapid. At the distance of a few paces from this edifice another smaller boat is made fast parallel to the first, the heads of both being directed down the stream. In the interval between, the water-wheel is suspended, and impelled by the natural velocity of the current. These mills, of which ten or twenty are sometimes found in immediate succession, are rather picturesque in their appearance, and give animation to the scenery around them. But however convenient they may be to the population on either bank of the Danube, where there

are no heights for windmills, it is certain that they afford serious impediments to navigation. They uniformly occupy the best parts of the river, and tend to the formation or increase of sandbanks in their neighbourhood, which, when the water is low, become, as we subsequently experienced, nuisances of a formidable description.

I believe there is no river in Europe which winds so much as the Danube. It may, with more than the usual truth of poetry, be emphatically designated as a "wandering stream." It consequently abounds with what are called "reaches," portions of the bank which at a distance look like promontories, and add not a little to the difficulties of the navigators, who have to work their way against the course of the current. It is amusing to observe a boat of the country labouring round one of these obstacles. It is generally a huge unwieldy bark, constructed of oak, covered with a high roof, and laden to the very top with what here universally passes under the name of fruit—that is wine, timber, wool, wheat, hay, and produce of every degree. The vessel is dragged up the river by a force which is not at first very apparent. You behold the vessel tied to the end of a rope, which is pulled by something or somebody somewhere, and if your eye can discern the "reach" at the distance perhaps of a mile, you may discover there a dozen brawny Hungarian peasants, half-naked, trudging along in rope harness, exerting all their strength to draw the enormous mass behind them. The more opulent adventurers, however, frequently employ horses for this purpose, and then the scene is infinitely more bustling. Twenty and sometimes thirty half-wild horses are required to supply a sufficient moving power, where the force of the current offers more than ordinary resistance. Almost every pair of horses belongs to a different peasant, and he will allow nobody to lash them but himself. He is most probably a nobleman, and it is a part of his privilege to drive his own horses after his own fashion. When, therefore, the whole of

the team arrives at a difficult reach, it becomes the signal for a general mutiny; the leaders are perhaps prancing in the air, while the horses immediately behind are endeavouring with all their might to bolt off into the adjacent country. Here a horse and his companion stand quite still, as if they were in doubt whether they ought not, before going further, to take a pleasant draught of the element at their feet. Half-a-dozen of the animals in the rear have dragged each other into the river, through which they are wading up to the girth, while the sound of a dozen whips, the altercations of the drivers, the angry exclamations of the boatmen shouting on the roofs of their vessels, the neighing of the alarmed horses, and the barking of dogs, combine to form a most ludicrous concert, which may be heard far down the river. Although in a broiling sun, these drivers keep on their large cloaks, which are as essential to the dignity of a Hungarian peasant-noble, as the wide-brimmed hat slouching over his swarthy countenance.

The high road, that is to say the track over the verdant turf, or the sandy track most frequently trodden, now and then ran along the side of the Danube, and exhibited occasionally specimens of the interior commerce of the country. Now a rude car laden with woolpacks, on the top of which was perched a lazy fellow smoking, drawn by eight or ten miserable horses, moved at a snail's pace, the wooden axle of the wheels yielding the while a species of music, compared with which the hoarsest sound of a hurdygurdy would be enchanting. Now a better sort of vehicle, a kind of waggon, filled perhaps with water-melons, Indian corn, or vegetables, for some neighbouring market, appeared on the scene, drawn by a much better class of horses, whose trappings were quite brilliant. The drivers of these waggons were generally the cultivators of the land which furnished the burden, and they displayed their prosperity in a smart underdress, of which a waistcoat with gold or silver plated buttons, and a profusion of silk lace

formed the principal ornament. These were succeeded perhaps by a troop of travellers, galloping on spirited and beautiful animals, or by a family whisked along in a kind of wicker carriage, which may be found in all parts of Hungary. I travelled a considerable portion of the way from Vienna in one of these simple post-chaises, and I found it not at all disagreeable. It is on springs, and peculiarly light, and as from the irregularities of the road I was often knocked from one side of the vehicle to the other without even the civility of a notice, I deemed it a convenience to come in contact rather with a yielding material, such as wicker, than with a solid board from Long Acre. And then, if the balance were in danger of being more than usually disturbed, if one of the wheels aspired to figure in the sky, while the other was buried in a sandy rut, I had no great difficulty in jumping out over the sides of my carriage.

CHAPTER II.

Captain Cozier—Scene on Board—Tyrolese Emigrants—Tyrolese Amusements—Countess N.—Moldavian Adventurer—Servian Jew—Navigable Rivers in Hungary—Internal Trade—Manufactures—Produce.

The captain of our steamer was an Englishman, of the name of Cozier, who, being little conversant with any branch of nautical science, was about equally skilled in the topography of the Danube. Though he had gone up and down several times, he knew no more of the caprices of the sandbanks than he did of the bed of the Yellow Sea. He had a bitter dislike to his office. Why he was permitted to undertake it, I could never understand. To me, I must say, he was communicative and

extremely civil; but my fellow-voyagers he treated with a degree of superciliousness which was very amusing. It seemed to be his settled opinion, that nobody except an Englishman was worthy of breathing the same air with himself. To be sure we had a motley crowd on board, such perhaps as never met together on the deck of a steam-boat before. Behold us all as in a mirror.

I am sitting (time, half-past eleven morning) on a stool near the man at the wheel. A little before me, on my right-hand, are two Tyrolese sleeping. One of these has on his head a green hat, with a wide band of green ribbon around it, in which are stuck some white and black feathers, selected from a cock's tail, intermixed with the bristles of a wild boar. The ribbon, where it joins, is edged with gold lace. Like most of his countrymen, this man rejoices in a thick gray frieze jacket, a striped cotton waistcoat, black leather breeches, here and there rather whitened by the hoar of antiquity, ribbed worsted gray stockings, and short, stout, laced boots. He wears his hair long behind, somewhat *négligé*. Another Tyrolese is sleeping near him, whose hat was some ages ago green, but now partakes of the colour of night. His hat-band seems also to have enjoyed two shades of existence—it was formerly green, now it is a dingy yellow. It is tied in front with a bow of pink ribbon, which, in its early days, must have looked seducing, especially as it appears to have been accompanied by an artificial rose and other flowers, the ruins of which are still discernible. One of these picturesque objects is stretched on a mat; the other has his head resting on a coil of rope, his feet on a similar cushion: the intervening departments of his frame repose on the naked deck.

While I was admiring the felicity in which these sleepers appeared to be immersed, a woman with a child, the wife I presume of one of them, came and awoke him. He rose and she took his place. Throwing a handkerchief over her otherwise bare head, she settles herself to sleep. The sun is blaz-

ing on her ladyship. The child, a round chubby little urchin, has no fancy at present for following her example. He would very much prefer a game at romps. Trying what he can do in that way, he, slily laughing, pulls the handkerchief off her face. Half angry, she gives him a tap, but he returns to the charge, and succeeds for a while in attracting her attention by his artless tricks, until at length he falls asleep on her bosom. She then gladly resumes her interrupted slumber. She is arrayed in a short blue cloth spencer, edged with black velvet, beneath which she wears a green thick velveteen pelisse sort of dress. Thick worsted stockings (*I believe!*) and laced rough boots complete her apparel. Of the former, however, I am not very confident, as I only saw the most tiny bit of one of them just beneath the edge of her petticoat.

At the feet of this happy matron a Tyrolese boy is fast asleep. One would think that noon had been changed into midnight. Near him a woman of the same nation is sitting upon a roll of cordage, doing nothing. A little Tyrolese lad, with a cockade of white cock's feathers, and a bunch of artificial flowers in his hat, is helping her! That must be his father who is sitting near him, smoking, and occasionally talking with one of his countrymen standing against the springs of one of the carriages, with which, by the way, our deck is most inconveniently crowded. Near the mast a group of men, all Tyrolese, are engaged in the several offices of talking, listening, smoking, musing, whistling, singing, and gazing at the dense cloud that rushes into the firmament from our black chimney. They are all rather better dressed than my immediate neighbours; one of them, a fine-looking fellow, whom I take to be captain of the gang, has his hat cocked in a dandyish style, considerably out of the circular shape. His plume of feathers, too, is larger and of a finer quality than those of the others. This party would make a capital study for a band of brigands, could they but assume a fiercer expression of countenance. As it is, they look too amiable for a Salvator Rosa.

At the top of the boat several knots of women, still Tyrolese, are sitting in various directions, executing for each other, alternately, without the slightest consciousness of the external effect of the operation, the agreeable task of disburdening their hair of its multitudinous inhabitants. No wonder that Captain Cozier was enraged!

Descending into the cabin I found a party of Hungarian nobles—men of genteel appearance and manners—seated at a round table, playing cards. They had been thus engaged all the morning. The stakes were not inconsiderable, and seemed to be taken up occasionally by the winners with infinite delight. Near them, sanctioning their amusement by her bland looks and smiles, is an elderly lady, knitting on a bench, and occasionally conversing with an exceedingly elegant figure, somewhat *petite*, whom, upon further acquaintance, I found to be the Countess N——, on her way from Pesth to Peterwardein. She had married, at the age of eighteen, a hot-headed nobleman of her own country, who became attached to her suddenly on account of her beauty. He took her to Pesth, entered into all the amusements of the place, gambling included, which is carried on in that capital to a formidable extent. The result was, that after a short experiment of two years, they were obliged to give up their establishment, and the young countess was now returning to her mother, attended by a French *femme de chambre*, the only remaining fragment of her transient splendour, except her harp, which she saved from the ruin. She was reading a compilation of common Hungarian ballads, which seemed to afford her amusement. In a corner, two little girls were tittering away most merrily—I could not make out at what. Within the ladies' cabin I heard some of the laughing voices, which recalled the sense of my "murdered sleep" of the morning. Upon the whole, I was pleased with the appearance of my companions, and flattered myself with the hope of a pleasant voyage, in which I was not disappointed.

In the course of the day a variety of new characters emerged from the second cabin, and other hiding-places, the greater part of whom soon ceased to attract my notice, as they were of that class that seems born for the mere purpose of transforming animal and vegetable substances into human flesh and blood for the ordinary number of years. Among these specimens of creation, however, there was one little man, whom I shall not speedily forget. He was from Moldavia. He had been in the Russian service during the late war with Turkey, but in what capacity I could never satisfactorily discover. I suspect he was a spy. He spoke German, French, and Italian fluently. He wore a blue frock-coat, which probably had served him during the said war, as it could boast of only a part of one button, and two very unequal skirts, remaining in any thing like decent condition. The rest of the garment was covered with grease. A pair of old black stuff trousers, patched at the knees in a most unworkmanlike manner, rent and not patched in other parts indescribable, and vilely tattered at the extremities, together with a ghost of a black waistcoat, a cast off military cap, and wretched boots, offered an apology for a better suit, which he said he had at home. His shirt was also in the list of absentees! He had lost the half of one of his thumbs, the other was wrapped in a bandage. He had not shaved for three weeks—he certainly could not have washed either his hands or his face for three months, and a comb had probably not passed through his hair for three years. To crown his personal peculiarities, he had a very red nose, on the top of which was perched a pair of spectacles.

Nevertheless, with all these strong objections against him—so strong, that I wonder my friend Captain Cozier had not thrown him overboard—there was something about this man which seemed to have actually fascinated a rather genteel youth, who was constantly at his side, and to have actually secured him the devotion of a miscellaneous group of Austrian soldiers and their wives, pedlars, and artisans, who occupied mats and

sheepskins on deck. With the sailors he was quite a favourite. He whistled well, he sung well, and passed off everything in a "devil-may-care" kind of way, which gained him admirers. A charlatan at a French fair—a romance-reader at the mole of Naples—could not possess more power over his audience, than was exercised over these simpletons by this Moldavian adventurer. He had a common-place book in his bosom—for his pockets had all vanished—from which he occasionally read to his followers scraps of poetry of his own composition, or selected from the works of celebrated German writers. These readings he interspersed with comments, often so droll that he set the whole deck in a roar. Then he would relate some of his accidents by flood and field, or describe his travels, in the course of which he mentioned the most extraordinary scenes in the world, which had occurred to him at Constantinople, Bucharest, Prague, Vienna, Petersburgh, Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Gibraltar, Venice, every where but London, where he had the modesty to confess he had never yet been. His eye, when lighted up by the excitement of the moment, was singularly brilliant, the flush of fine intelligence was on his swarthy weather-beaten check, his voice was melody itself, and his diction eloquence.

Retired from the crowd appeared now and then an extremely well-looking Jew and his daughter, a pale, slight, interesting girl, who seemed to have much to converse about on their own affairs. They were dressed in the Turkish costume. As I passed them the father saluted me in Spanish, at which I was not a little surprised. Upon further acquaintance, I learned that he was descended from one of the Jewish families, which having been expelled in the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella from Spain, were permitted to take up their abode in Servia, where their posterity still continue to reside. The Spanish language is spoken by all these Jews, in preference even to the tongue of their fatherland, so great is their traditional affec-

tion for the once Moorish kingdoms of the peninsula. This man was returning to Vidin from Vienna, where he had been upon a mercantile speculation, which he did not explain. We became great friends. The daughter had a mandolin, upon which she sometimes favoured me with Moorish and Servian airs.

Our boat rubbed upon the natural bed of the river two or three times, very much to the captain's astonishment and perplexity. Men were consequently stationed at the prow to sound the bottom, when we found that, even where it was deepest, we had not more than six or seven feet of water. I fully expected that we should run aground, an embarrassment which was about the last I should have thought of in the Danube. I had rather imagined that our difficulties would have chiefly consisted in evading the dangerous rapidity of the flood, for I could not have fancied the Danube anything less than a magnificent inundation, hurrying for ever towards the Euxine. Very much to my surprise, however, I found it considerably shrunk beneath its banks, and often so lethargic in its course, that it seemed more like a lake than the principal river of Europe.

The passage by the Danube to the Black Sea has long been an object of great interest in Hungary. It has more than once given rise to bold speculations on the part of individuals, which have hitherto entirely failed, owing in some degree to the jealousy of the Turks, but chiefly to the difficulties with which the navigation is attended. Those difficulties, before the introduction of steam-boats, arose from the numerous shallows and sandbanks which are encountered in the river, from the rocky nature of the bed of the Danube where no sandbanks are to be found, and from the great resistance offered by the rapids in some parts of the river to a vessel drawn by horses or by men against the current. The latter difficulty will speedily disappear before the power of the steam-engine; but we shall

have occasion more than once in the course of this narrative to observe, that the two former obstacles still serve to postpone the satisfactory accomplishment of this most useful enterprise.

I am led, however, to believe that by the application of science and capital, the two main impediments to the steam-navigation of the Danube may be finally removed; and in that case it would be important to calculate the great advantages which the success of this project would confer, in a commercial point of view, upon Hungary. Any common map of that country shows that it is intersected in almost every direction by rivers, most of which are either navigable, or easy to be rendered so; and that there is scarcely one of them which does not communicate with the Danube. Thus, the Theiss, an important river which rises in the Carpathian Mountains, after winding in a most singular manner through the northern counties of Hungar , as if it were designedly traced with a view to afford to each the greatest possible degree of convenience, takes a southern course for many leagues nearly parallel to the Danube, receiving on the way the waters of several large tributaries which pour down from the mountains of Transylvania, and eventually falls into that river about midway between Peterwardein and Belgrade. The Theiss is connected with the Danube by the canal of the Emperor Francis, which was finished in 1801, and which proceeds from the latter a little below Mohacs, and enters the former at Foldvar, a distance of about sixty-two English miles. It has been proposed to unite these two rivers higher up by a canal, which should pass direct from Pesth to Szolnok. A survey has been made for this purpose, which proved highly favourable, both as to the levels, and the supply of water. The Theiss, therefore, is at present in communication through the Danube with the Drave and the Save; through the latter and the Culpa river a boat might proceed from the north-eastern part of Hungary to Fiume on the Adriatic, or, following the Save, it might reach Leibach and Trieste.

Schwartner has collected some important facts relative to the facilities which exist in Hungary, for raising that kingdom to great commercial importance. From Pesth, as a centre, various lines of communication radiate towards Austria, Moravia, and Moravian Silesia, Gallicia, Transylvania, Turkey, Croatia, Trieste, and Fiume. The town of Debretzin is the central point to the east. Carlstadt is the most active trading place in Croatia, and is essential to the communication between Hungary and the Adriatic. In all the different stations upon these commercial roads, there are merchants established, who buy goods wholesale, and reserving a certain quantity for the consumption of their neighbourhood, transmit the remainder to other parts of the country.

A considerable internal commerce already exists in the interior of Hungary, in consequence of the great difference existing between its northern and southern climates, and the great variety of its produce. Very little iron is to be found in the mountain, which is also the mining, district. There are no vineyards above Kaschau, no tobacco fields beyond Gomor, no fruit trees beyond the foot of the Krivans. In the great plains of Cumania and Jazyga, which are in the middle of Hungary, there is a want of iron, stone, fuel, timber, salt, grain, manufactured goods, and even of the articles fabricated by the ordinary handicraft trades. Pesth, which has risen almost from insignificance within the last fifty years, has little to supply its great and increasing consumption, except what it receives from the northern and southern districts. Before Pesth assumed its present attitude of importance, Debretzin was the great emporium of Hungary. The distance of the latter from the Theiss, and the advantageous situation of the former upon the Danube, together with its fair every quarter, at which commercial transactions are carried on to as great an extent as at any of the similar assemblages in Germany, promise to render it in a few years one of the most prosperous cities upon the continent.

"It is to be lamented," observes Schwartner, "that the navigation in the ascent of the Danube is so difficult; that in the Theiss, which flows with a more moderate stream, the returning navigation is prevented beyond Segedin, on account of the low and marshy land by which it is surrounded preventing the use of horses in drawing the vessels; that the river Gran (which falls into the Danube a little above Pesth) is only navigable at particular seasons of the year, and that the Wagh (which enters the Danube midway between Pesth and Presburg), cannot be navigated against the stream." It is obvious that the steam-boat will remedy most of the evils of which Schwartner here complains.

The trade upon the canal of the Emperor Francis, according to an official report, consists chiefly in wheat, wheat and rye mixed, maize, millet, barley, oats, wine, salt, copper and silver, wood and timber, stone for buildings and mill-stones, lime, coal and pitch, tobacco, household furniture, hides, galls and bark for tanning, meal, fruit, provisions, and glass.

"The trade," says Schwartner, "from the south towards the north of Hungary, is attended with heavy charges, because it must be chiefly conducted by land-carriage; and the roads in the north are mountainous, or so badly kept, that at many seasons they are almost impassable. All merchandize passes through the country with freedom, going from one county to another without any examination, and none are stopped but the goods of those who are not able to pay tolls, which in any case are but small. The regulation of the inns is bad. On the cross-roads, where Jews usually undertake the entertainment of the traveller, there is care taken neither of man nor beast: on the main roads almost all the innkeepers and their servants are foreigners from Austria or Bayreuth; and these exorbitant landlords exercise in a most unmerciful manner the right which they have, but which is denied to the King, of taxing the noble and the peasant in an equally arbitrary manner. Hence it is not wonderful if we see the common merchant,

more particularly the Servian, prefer taking up his night's quarters in the open air. Travelling frequenters of the markets, to whom the roads often owe both their safety and their cheerfulness, are met in every part and at every season; for there is nothing more remarkable in the internal trade of Hungary than the number of merchants and tradesmen, retail dealers, hawkers, pedlars, and handicraftsmen, going from market to market, and frequenting the numerous fairs, which amount to above two thousand in the year. No moderate village is without a Greek or Jew merchant; and particularly in the south of Hungary, all the internal, as well as the foreign trade, is in the hands of the Jews, Greeks, and Armenians, so that a Hungarian or a German can seldom hope to engage in profitable mercantile dealings, and the number of the Jewish traders is daily increasing in every branch, both of wholesale and retail trade. All the fairs, except a few great cattle-markets, some of which take place at the towns near the frontiers, and the great markets of Pesth, Debretzin, and Eszek, are almost exclusively confined to dealings in articles of internal produce or consumption. These were formerly held upon the Sabbath, till Maria Theresa transferred them to some week-day. The want of large towns, their irregular distribution, the difficulty of communication and intercourse before the post was understood, and ignorance of the method of doing business by commission, may be the causes of the numerous applications for market privileges granted since the twelfth century by the Kings of Hungary, which, as trade becomes really great and prosperous, must fall into disuse."

The manufactures of Hungary are very limited, consisting chiefly of coarse linen, cotton, an indifferent kind of paper, spirit which is produced from grain, plums, or other fruits, and oil which is obtained from linseed, the seeds of the rape, the poppy, and sunflower. Tobacco and snuff are produced in great abundance. At Ædenburg and Fiume sugar-refineries are established. The manufactory of cloths and woollen stuffs

has made no great progress as yet in Hungary; flannels are made in Stuhlweissenburg and many parts of the Zips, and heavy water-proof cloth for cloaks, as well as other coarse articles, are woven by the Croatians and Sclavonians. Attempts have been made to grow and manufacture silk at Grosswardein, Presburg, Altofen, Pesth, and other places, but hitherto without success.

The articles fabricated in gold and silver are not sufficient to supply the home consumption. Iron is produced in considerable quantities in Gomor, Zips, and Liptau; the steel of Diós-Gyor is excellent; nevertheless the chief supplies of these articles are furnished by Vienna and Styria. Several manufactories of common glass and pottery are distributed through the country. Debretzin is famous for its tobacco pipe-heads. Holitsch is highly esteemed for its earthenware, but here terminates the list of Hungarian manufactures. The principal resources of that country are to be found in her mines, her vineyards, her harvests, and her flocks, and these are so abundant that she needs but greater facilities for exportation to become one of the richest states in Europe.

According to Schwartner the annual vintage of Hungary may be estimated at eighteen millions of eimers. The principal vineyards are those of Syrmien, Buda, Pesth, Tokay, and Grosswardein. Its produce in grain, exclusive of Indian corn and rice, is said to amount to 60,000,000 Presburg metzen. (1) Its improved sheep are calculated at 6,000,000, its unimproved at 4,000,000, the whole of which are constantly feeding in the country, and yield large annual returns to their proprietors. Extensive droves of horned cattle and swine are sold in all the fairs and markets.

Sulphur has been procured in many parts of Hungary from copper pyrites. Traces also of coal are scattered throughout the country, but the veins hitherto discovered are of no great

(1) A metze is equal to about 1 6-8 of a Winchester bushel.

value. Peat also abounds in Hungary; salt is found there in the greatest profusion, as well as considerable quantities of soda, saltpetre, and alum. From my cogitations on these subjects I was summoned at one o'clock to dinner.

CHAPTER III.

Dinner—Wines—Languages of the Party—Plains of Hungary—English Groom—State of the Neighbourhood of Tolna—System of Land-owners—English Farmers in requisition—Arrival at Tolna—Battle with Dogs—Search for a Bed—Billiards—Cottage Delights—Night Scene—Hungarian Politics—Wood-boats—Produce—Village of Mohacs—Costume of the Natives—Appearance of the Streets—Industry of Women—Hungarian Ladies and their Maids.

We sat down a large and merry party to the table. I must honestly confess that I enjoy a good dinner at all times, and in all places, but I fancy that I entertain a particular relish for the performance of my duties in that way on board a steam-boat. The air, the exercise, the novelty of the scene, the emulation kindled among a number of candidates for a participation in the spoil, and, perhaps, above all, the savoury odours of soups and stews, which mingle beforehand with the atmosphere of the deck, conspire to whet the appetite to a degree of keenness altogether unknown on *terra firma*.

We commenced operations with rice soup, which was followed of course by *bouilli*; next came sundry dishes of roast fowl, and of fowl cooked as giblets, and well cooked too. By way of relaxation, we were then invited to admit a layer of bread pudding upon the said fowls, with a view to prevent them from finding fault with what was to come after—a prudent measure! The dinner was closed by capon, served up with plums in their own syrup for sauce. Upon the whole,

notwithstanding the monotony of the entertainment, it went off, as the theatrical critics say, with *eclat*. We were not, however, fortunate in our wine: it was pale and sour; a degree or two beneath small beer. Hungary produces some of the most exquisite wines in Europe, but I must say that I never had the felicity to meet with them. Those which are found in ordinary use are truly detestable.

The vineyards of Hungary are chiefly in the hands of the peasants, who attend much more to the quantity than the quality of their produce. Hence the wine commonly used in Hungary, generally a white wine faintly coloured from the mixture of grapes of every kind, is to a foreigner, and especially to an Englishman who sets a value upon Madeira, sherry, and port, altogether undrinkable. The country, however, round the town of Tokay is justly celebrated for its vintage. It extends over a space of about twenty English miles. The grapes are permitted to remain on the trees, until they become dry and sweet; they are then gathered carefully one by one, and are collected in a cask, the bottom of which is pierced with holes, to let that portion of the juice escape, which will run from them without any pressure, and which under the name of Tokay essence, is very highly prized. The grapes are next put into a vat and trampled with the bare feet, but not heavily. To the expressed liquor is added an equal quantity of good wine, which is allowed to stand for twenty-four hours, and is then strained. The juice thus obtained becomes the well-known wine of Tokay, which sells at Vienna at the rate of twelve pounds per dozen, and even at that price is difficult to be procured. The Tokay vineyards chiefly belong to the Emperor, though some of them are the property of Hungarian nobles.

The Meneser wine is by some judges said to be equal to Tokay. The secondary wines are those of Ædenburg, Rusth, St. Gyorgy, and Ofen. The vine is understood to have been originally introduced into Hungary by the Emperor

Probus in the fourth century. It was first planted at Sirmien, which was the principal scene of its prosperity until after the fatal battle of Mohacs, when the vineyards in that quarter were neglected. Those of Tokay were known in the thirteenth century, but they did not attain celebrity until after those of the south had fallen into neglect. Since the departure of the Turks, however, the Sirmien wines have again risen in reputation. Its red wine, or as it is called the Schiller wine, which is strong and sweet, is said to be excellent.

As soon as the edge of appetite was a little blunted, we became not only a merry but a noisy party. The Hungarian language prevailed by a considerable majority, but I happened to sit between a merchant from Trieste, who spoke a little English, and a medical gentleman from the Tyrol, who spoke French tolerably. The latter informed me that he had charge of the Tyrolese families on board, numbering in all nearly a hundred individuals, who were proceeding on their way to Transylvania, where they intended to settle, and work mines belonging to the Austrian Government.

My mercantile neighbour was bound to Peterwardein, whence he was to journey into the interior, for the purpose of purchasing corn, to be shipped for Trieste. I was the only Englishman in a party of about forty persons, and I soon found that I was an object of general attention. All wondered whither I was going—what were my pursuits—what had brought me so far from home; and when it became pretty well whispered about that I was on my way to Constantinople, where the plague was raging at that moment, according to a thousand reports, in a most formidable manner, I became not only an object of attention but of sympathy. As I was altogether unacquainted with the Hungarian language, and my Hungarian friends knew no other except Latin, I was obliged to turn out from the recesses of my memory all that still remained there of Lilly and Erasmus, in order to answer the questions that were put to me. We were consequently all

speedily arranged upon a footing of agreeable intercourse, the ladies and myself only excepted, for, very much to my chagrin, they spoke no dialect save their own Hungarian. Even the little elegant countess was ignorant of French and Italian; but I afterwards found that the education of the fair sex in Hungary had been, hitherto at least, wholly neglected.

I was much pleased with my new companions. They exhibited towards each other and towards myself so much good-nature, they were so frank in their discourse, so cheerful, so full of anecdote, so easily provoked to laughter, in which they indulged with all the heartiness of children, that I felt the greatest interest in poring over this new page of the volume of society. Even when I did not understand the language in which their conversation was carried on, I could collect its general meaning from the tone, the look, the animated gestures by which it was accompanied. After coffee our "house" adjourned.

Soon after leaving Pesth, we passed the large island of Ratoykovi, which is the property, I understand, of the Duke of Saxe-Tesehen. It is sprinkled with villages, which at a distance looked neat and prosperous, as if they had the good fortune, which I believe to be the case, of enjoying the protection of a beneficent landlord. The woods on the island are luxuriant and picturesque. Beyond the island on the right is the market village of Adony, chiefly consisting of thatched cottages. From Adony to Foldvar the country appears to be one of those extensive aud apparently measureless plains which abound in Hungary, and which in some places resemble the downs of Wiltshire, while in others they are sandy tracts, not incapable, however, of cultivation. The plain upon our right was a flat open pasture, and is said to afford a fair picture of the country called the Banat, that stretches eastward from the river Theiss. Here were feeding large flocks of sheep and droves of oxen, attended by herdsmen, who usually lay on the ground wrapped in their thick woollen cloaks, their

donkeys, on which they followed their flocks, grazing by their side.

Rohrer calculated in 1808, that in the kingdom of Hungary, including Sclavonia and Croatia, out of a territorial extent of 4097 Austrian square miles, a space equal to 543 square miles might be said to be undivided common, yielding only a scanty herbage to flocks and herds, numerous certainly, but insignificant when compared with the much greater numbers which might be sustained on the same lands, if they were put under the plough or converted into good pasture. No material change appears as yet to have taken place in Hungary in this respect, owing to the deficiency in the population, the want of good roads and water conveyance, the difficulty of obtaining good markets, and the unfortunate but almost universal propensity of the inhabitants to indolence. These obstacles to Hungarian improvement will disappear in due season, should the steam navigation of the Danube be successful.

Below Foldvar a vast extent of corn-land appeared, the property of the Count Batthyani. Vineyards rose on every side, separated by hedges, which are decorated in the summer by the blossoms of the lilac and the barberry. Beyond Packs the soil seems chiefly appropriated to tobacco, except where it is invaded by the drifting sands which, wherever they make their approach, turn the plain into a desert.

The engineer of our steam-boat, a skilful, active, good-humoured young man, from Birmingham, named Pearce, made my acquaintance in the course of the evening, and pointed out to me, among the crowd before the mast, another Englishman, near whom was sitting a very pretty German young woman, whom he had just brought from Vienna as his wife. I went forward and spoke to this man, whom I found remarkably intelligent for his station. He was on his way home, his home for the present being the town, or rather the village, of Tolna, where we were likely to arrive about sunset. He had lived for some time with the Count Tedische, a

Hungarian nobleman of extensive possessions in that part of the country, who, like most of his "order," made a point of having an English groom to take care of his stud. From this post, however, the newly-married exile was about to be elevated to the rank of the count's bailiff, or steward. The account which he gave me of the state of the district in which he lived was not much calculated to encourage emigration thither from England.

"In former times," said he, and I give very nearly his own words, "it was the custom for the emperor to give a title of nobility to every person who in battle killed his man. These titles unfortunately became hereditary; the consequence of which is that almost every second man you meet in Hungary is either really noble or affects to be so. The great mass of this kind of aristocracy are wretchedly poor. They are too proud to work, and having no property they live by plunder.(1) They go, sir—you coming fresh from England will hardly believe it—these fellows go in the noonday to a field of Indian corn, the best they can find in the neighbourhood, with horses and waggons, which they have begged or seized for their purpose; they cut down as much of the corn as they please, and then carry it away openly, as if it had been the regular produce of their own industry; the poor farmer looking on all the time, perhaps, from a distance, afraid even to be seen, for it would be as much as his life is worth to offer the slightest resistance to their proceedings! For this robbery there is no redress. This is not all. These marauders choose to fall out with a man—they do so easily enough, for they are dreadfully quarrelsome—they attack him and kill him. For such a crime there is no punishment; whereas if one of themselves happen to be killed in the fray, they obtain redress immediately. They give themselves the name of Edelmen, which seems to be a passport of impunity for every species of wickedness.

(1) It will be observed, that this description applies only to the lowest order of aristocratic paupers.

"These Edelmen are in some degree imitated by a still more desperate set of vagabonds, who prowl in bands all over the country. Six or seven of these ruffians come into your house of a night, and live upon you as long as it may suit their convenience. If you do not receive them hospitably as guests, give them abundance to eat, drink with them, talk with them, and make them welcome in every way, they will most probably, after consuming all your store of provisions, beat you to a mummy before they go. They then elude pursuit by hiding in the woods.

"I must admit at the same time, that the Hungarians who do not belong to either of these two classes of plunderers, are in general a very good sort of people, as the world goes. To be sure, they will cheat in bargaining if they can; but in other respects they are friendly, good-natured, and trustworthy. They are for the most part engaged in agriculture. The system of the landowner is this:—He sends round the neighbourhood, by beat of drum, to proclaim that he has a certain portion of land to let. The peasants who are willing to take this land in shares enter into an agreement to that effect; they cultivate their tenements, and deposit the produce in the landlord's granary; each tenant is entitled to half the produce of his labour. Upon the same plan all agricultural work is done. Those who thresh or tread out the corn, for instance, receive a fifth in kind. The clergy have for the most part portions of land settled on themselves, but tithes are still payable in some places to the landlord.

"This simple custom works very well—indeed I do not know how it could be altered, seeing that there is so little money current in any part of Hungary. At the same time, I believe the landowners in general, and the count in particular, would be extremely glad to get over some English farmers here, if such a thing was possible, which I think it is not, for few of my countrymen would long endure the Edelmen. As for myself, I have at present very little land, though I hope to

have more. I am now getting used to the thing, and begin to bear it with some degree of indifference; but I assure you, sir, if I had a livelihood in old England, I should be very glad to be back there again. To be sure, I am looked up to at Tolna by my neighbours, and respected by the count's friends, on account of the great success which his horses generally met with at our races—for we have, I assure you, very fair meetings of that kind, which have tended very much to improve the breed throughout the country."

My intelligent informant's discourse was here broken off, as we had just arrived (half-past six o'clock) at Tolna, where we cast anchor for the night. The idea of stopping here until the morning was to me incomprehensible, as the moon, though on the wane, would soon in this climate turn the night almost into day. But the sandbanks!—at that awful sound the captain shook his head, and so we had no alternative. No chart of the river had yet been engraved; (1) but it was understood that one was in progress, of which future passengers might profit perhaps. Our fate was sealed against the slightest chance of any thing like a nocturnal expedition.

"Well, at all events," thought I, "I shall go into the village, and find a bed, if such a thing there be;" for I would have gladly avoided, if I could, the necessity of "roughing it" on a bench in the cabin. Accordingly, after all the passengers who were bound for Tolna had landed, together with nearly the whole of our Tyrolese, men, women, and children, I stepped on shore, having been recommended by the "bailiff" to put up at the "Black Eagle." As he was necessarily engaged himself in debarking some furniture for his new house, he called a sprightly lad of his acquaintance from amidst a group on the bank, and directed him to marshal me the way to the inn. This lad not only came himself, but brought with him a whole

(1) I afterwards learned that the new chart of the Danube will be soon published at Vienna.

"tail" of his companions, some of whom ran before, some beside, others behind me, along the sandy pathway leading to the village, which was nearly a mile distant. It was rather fortunate that I had this *posse comitatus* in my service, as, upon approaching the "Black Eagle," we were met by such a numerous troop of fierce dogs, which seemed to have assembled from all parts of Tolna, as if to dispute our entrance, that we were obliged to come to a regular engagement. Victory having declared on our side, we proceeded onward until we arrived at the inn gate, where my escort disappeared in an instant, scampering off in all directions, as the dogs were rapidly rallying once more for action, barking as if they meant to assail even the "Black Eagle" itself. I took good care to close the gate after me, and directed my steps at once to the kitchen, where a prodigal fire was blazing, and the landlady, as well as her whole household, were running about in an indescribable hurry.

Upon presenting myself to the presidentess of the "Black Eagle," I signified to her, as well as I could, that I wanted a bed; but she was so entirely pre-occupied in cutting up a quarter of a calf for a variety of parties who were clamouring for supper, she had so many orders to give to her maids, and had so many pots and pans stewing on the hearth, that after repeated exertions, I gave up the toil of soliciting her attention. I stepped forth, therefore, upon an expedition of discovery for myself, resolved, if I could find a chamber disengaged, to establish my proper person therein, without further ceremony. My first attempt was rather unfortunate; for on opening a door, I happened to light upon a woman just stepping into bed, her husband being about halfway towards the same enviable destination. My second effort was not more successful; for the room I opened was apparently a receptacle for stores of every description—grapes, flour, oats, onions, casks of wine, hay, and broken chairs. Courageously persevering in my tour of the house, I next found myself in the presence of a

nurse and three or four children, all of whom were strenuously engaged in the duty of squalling as loud as they could. Finding, upon a further examination, that I had no chance of attaining my object, I resolved to wait awhile until the business of supper was over, when I thought madame might be able to think of me for a moment; but, on entering the public room, I had the gratification to observe that it was full of the Tyrolese families, who, having procured some milk, were distributing it with paternal and maternal assiduity among their infant generations. Some of the men were drinking wine, some were eating supper, others were trying to sleep on a table, or on the floor, amidst the cries of children, the scolding of mothers, songs, shouting, dancing, and other peaceable amusements.

Not yet despairing of fortune, I proceeded to a neighbouring apartment, which turned out to be a billiard-room, crowded with Austrian officers, who were playing at billiards, or standing round the table enveloped in an atmosphere of vapour arising from Hungarian tobacco—the most potent, and to a non-smoker the most offensive, I believe, that has yet been manufactured. Not being in a mood for suffocation, I speedily effected my escape, and had the consolation to behold myself once more in the yard of the "Black Eagle," in one corner of which a butcher was engaged in skinning a newly-killed sheep by the light of a lamp, which a swarthy peasant, in an immense hat and a blanket cloak, was holding up for him. Having at length very reluctantly resolved that my expedition was an entire failure, hearing no more of the dogs, and presuming that they were by this time all asleep, I set out upon my return to the steam-boat. As I passed along through the village, I could not help looking in at a window where a light was glimmering; the room within was decently furnished, and a pretty young mother was playing with a baby in its night-clothes, before putting it to bed. The smiles of the little angel, and the exuberant joy of the parent, afforded a spectacle

of perfect happiness, which made me forget my late disappointment, and I resumed my way in good-humour with all the world.

The stars were shining in the blue ocean of the sky. The moon had just risen above the margin of the horizon between two of those beauteous worlds, and, though divested of half her light, flung a long pathway of silver on the surface of the Danube. The Lyre was peculiarly brilliant, a constellation which I had many an hour admired and endeavoured to explore from my own garden at home, accompanied by her who shares in all my thoughts and feelings. Though wandering alone in a foreign land, I thus found familiar friends every where in Nature around me. The silence of the scene, disturbed only now and then by the bark of a village cur; the low soothing murmur of the broad river; the recollections which its celebrated name kindled in my memory, detained me loitering on the shore until a chorus, sung by a group of Tyrolese, who were returning to our vessel, reminded me that it was time to follow their example.

Finding my companions at supper, I was very glad to join them. They were in the midst of Hungarian politics, two of them being deputies on their way home from the Diet. I have seldom met a more engaging person than the Count P——, who appeared to have taken an active part in the business of the legislature. He was inexhaustible in anecdotes about his fellow-deputies, and the mode in which the national affairs were carried on. Eloquent, cheerful, off-hand, and thoroughly conversant with human nature, he often placed the most serious thing in a ridiculous point of view, which kept the table in roars of laughter. His features beamed with benevolence, and I was not surprised afterwards to learn, that in his own county of Presburg, where he has ample possessions, he is universally beloved. He had frequently the goodness to explain to me in Latin the political parts of his conversation. He said that the diet was the mere image of what it ought to

be, according to the ancient constitution of the country. Many of the deputies were determined on eventually effecting a reform, but from motives of personal respect for the then reigning emperor, they would take no steps during his lifetime. Under a new sovereign, however, they would certainly insist upon the restoration of the Hungarian constitution. I had more than once occasion to remark, that politics were by no means forbidden topics in this country: they are in fact as freely spoken of as in France or England. No notice is ever taken by the authorities of this liberty of speech; I have heard even the authorities themselves discuss public questions without the slightest reserve. The freedom thus generally enjoyed must be founded not only on custom, which cannot be changed, but upon a sense of inherent strength with which it might be dangerous to tamper.

Tolna, and a considerable part of the country around it, belong to the Count Fesletitz, who has a handsome house in the town, with the arms of his family, carved in stone, over the entrance, after the Spanish fashion. The town was formerly of some importance. In 1518, Louis II. summoned in it an assembly of the states. The inhabitants are chiefly Germans, whose time is occupied in the cultivation of tobacco, said to be the finest produced in Hungary—by which I suppose is meant the *strongest*. It is perhaps for this reason preferred to that of Szegedin, Arad, and Debretzin. The Austrian government had formerly a monopoly in the purchase of this article; that monopoly no longer exists in law; in practice, however, the government is the chief purchaser. It has large magazines here, as well as at Debretzin, and Szegeden, in which the raw produce is collected, and from which it is transmitted to the imperial manufactory at Haimburgh. It is there prepared in different ways to suit the markets of Austria and the surrounding countries. Saffron is also grown in this district, but not in sufficient quantity to meet the consumption. The saffron of Austria, which is celebrated, is grown chiefly about Ulm,

Kirchberg, Wagram, Herzogenburg, and Ravelsback; there is therefore no reason, so far as climate at least is concerned, why the neighbourhood of Tolna should yield so limited a quantity.

We set off the next morning at half-past four o'clock, and again passed by a number of those picturesque-looking mills already mentioned. The bank on our right ran along the edge of a vast forest. I should have liked to sketch some peasants, who were waiting by the river-side for a boat to convey to one of the mills several sacks of wheat, which they had brought to be ground. The morning being rather cold, they were wrapped up in their great cloaks, their large hats pressed low over their brows; they were accompanied by two or three women, and near them were several wicker cars, which appear to be generally used in Hungary. A wood-boat, as it is called, was making its way down the river. It consists, in fact, of four boats which are lashed together for the purpose of carrying the long timber that is found in great abundance and of pretty good quality in the neighbouring forest. Its cabin is a very frugal affair, being composed only of half-a-dozen boards raised near the prow in a slanting direction from side to side. Beneath this shade the operations of cooking and sleeping went on.

We passed in the course of the day by several long straggling villages, near which I observed some apparently fine vineyards. Certainly the grapes with which our table was served were among the most delicious I had ever tasted, and served to confirm my opinion, that the inferiority of the Hungarian wine in general is to be attributed to the mode in which it is manufactured. If the process were improved, and more attention bestowed upon the quality than upon the quantity produced, I have no doubt that the wines of Hungary would rival even those of Spain, which I take to be the best in Europe.

At noon we stopped at Mohacs to take in wood and coals.

This latter valuable article is found at a short distance in the interior of the country: the coals are small and stony, but they form a strong fire when mingled with wood. The operation of getting them on board being a very tedious one, we all went on shore to take a stroll through the town. A large and highly respectable-looking family were waiting in a handsome phaeton on the bank for the Count P——, who met them in the most affectionate manner. They were attended by a troop of "followers," as an Irishman would say, who kissed the count's hand, and seemed delighted to have him once more among them. A decent elderly woman, who must have been his nurse, wept for joy. She, and one or two fine youths who seemed to be entitled to higher privileges, kissed not his hand but his arm! I looked on at this meeting with great interest, and when the carriage drove away with the count, I felt, under the impression that he was not to return, as if I had lost a friend whom I had long known.

The bank was soon crowded with groups of peasantry, men and women, extremely well-looking, who had assembled chiefly to gaze on the wonders of the steam-boat. The former were loosely clothed in shirts, waistcoats, and loose trousers, all made of coarse canvass. The trousers were so wide that at a distance they looked like petticoats. Their hats were of the usual Hungarian dimensions, and they generally wore sandals without stockings. The head-dress of the women consisted for the most part simply of a blue handkerchief, which was tied under the chin. They wore neither stockings nor sandals. Their gowns were of ordinary calico, blue, red, green, plainly printed, I presume of German manufacture. Some twenty of these women, the younger of whom were decorated with a profusion of different-coloured necklaces of glass or coral beads, were seated in a semicircle selling fruit. Their baskets were heaped with walnuts, magnificent grapes, and apples. A wicker car was also speedily in attendance,

laden with some of the finest melons and plums I ever saw. The latter were of a deep red colour, and of the most tempting ripeness. When the Tyrolese began to market with these fruit-venders, an artist might have found in the scene a picturesque variety of character and costume.

Though the Hungarians call Mohacs a town, I should rather say that it is a large village, built with the most rustic simplicity. The houses generally consist of mud walls, roofed with long reeds, each being surrounded by a high wicker fence, which encloses a considerable space of ground, including a farm-yard, a well, with the primitive lever for raising the bucket, and sometimes a garden. Rows of these detached houses form several irregular streets, which are planted with shady trees on each side. Cocks were crowing in all directions, otherwise one would scarcely have thought that the place had been inhabited, such was the silence that prevailed. Even the dogs were mute, sleeping through the noonday heat. The gable ends of the cottages generally faced the street, the roof being carried a foot or two beyond the walls, on which, or upon the window-sills, were strung in the sun, quantities of a rich-looking green and ruby fruit, here called the golden apple, and resembling our girkin in form. It is preserved for pickling, is full of seeds, and even before being pickled is not disagreeable to the taste. I tried to get into the two churches which belong to the village, but they were locked. Their external appearance was decent.

The coals and wood were carried to our boat in wheelbarrows by a number of muscular, active, hard-working girls; hundreds of men were loitering on the bank, not one of whom could be prevailed upon to assist in the labour, through sheer laziness. We were consequently detained more than three hours by an operation, which ought to have been completed within less than half the time, as the depot was within twenty yards of the river. For their industry on this occasion these

poor girls, who went through the work with indefatigable cheerfulness, received only portions of flax, respectively equivalent to about two or three pence of our money.

While these girls were engaged in their task, the first crowd of spectators gradually dispersed, and left the scene open to some more respectable groups, who came to gratify their curiosity. Several young ladies appeared in their hair, which was tastefully arranged, protected from the sun by parasols, and in other respects attired in the English style. They were attended by their maids, who also displayed their ringlets, and, but for the smart white aprons by which they were distinguished, might have been mistaken for their mistresses. These attractions had the usual effect of summoning also to the general rendezvous, the beaux of the neighbourhood, who were for the most part apparelled in black velvet vests, and white trousers: a short white woollen cloak decorated at the collar with red worsted lace, and conspicuously exhibiting a red cross in front, being carelessly thrown over the left shoulder.

CHAPTER IV.

Battle of Mohacs—Hungarian Power—Solyman—Defeat of the Hungarians—Steam-boat aground—Tyrolese Melodies—Night Scene—"Hanger on"—Auction at Cards—"Knave of Clubs" Game—How to Float a Steamer—Military Valet—Kamenitz—Odescalchi Convent—Parting Game—Kissing—Nousatz—Carlovitz—Semlin—Greek Church—Plague at Constantinople.

INSIGNIFICANT as Mohacs now appears to be, it was once the scene of an important battle between the Hungarians and the Turks. Solyman the "Magnificent," as he is deservedly styled, on account of his zealous and well-directed attention to

the improvement and embellishment of his empire, succeeded his father Selymus on the Ottoman throne in the year 1520. After quelling an insurrection in Syria, and establishing his power in Egypt, he resolved to turn his arms against the Christian nations. His great-grandfather had attempted, without success, to obtain possession of Belgrade, a city in which were deposited most of the trophies taken by the Hungarians in their wars with the Turks, and which, therefore, in the estimation of the followers of the Prophet, it became a sacred duty to conquer. The sultan, having rapidly moved his army towards the frontiers, arrived in Servia before the Hungarians were even aware of his approach.

At this period the Hungarian power had greatly declined. The throne was occupied by Louis II., a young and feeble sovereign, who had no means of raising an army sufficient to contend against his powerful and ambitious enemy. "His nobility," says his quaint historian Knolles, "in whose hands rested the wealth of his kingdom, promised much, but performed indeed nothing. Huniades with his hardy soldiers, the scourge and terror of the Turks, were dead long before; so was also Matthias, that fortunate warrior; after whom succeeded others given to all pleasure and ease, to whose example the people fashioning themselves, forgot their wonted valour." Belgrade fell almost without resistance.

Solyman having gained his immediate object broke up his army, returned to Constantinople, and employed himself in fitting out a fleet for the conquest of Rhodes, which he also effected towards the end of the year 1522. Having devoted the three following years to the organization of a large army, he resumed his designs against Hungary, taking advantage of the distractions which then prevailed in Europe in consequence of the war carried on in Italy by Francis I. against Charles V. The communication in those days between different countries must have been extremely imperfect, as it appears that before Louis had any knowledge of the intentions of Solyman, a

Turkish army, numbering two hundred thousand men, had reached the borders of Hungary. The young monarch, upon learning the peril to which his kingdom was exposed, addressed applications for assistance to most of the Christian princes, but without success. He lost no time in summoning his prelates and nobles to his aid; they obeyed the call with great readiness, so far as they were themselves concerned; but the troops they brought with them into the field were ill-appointed and inexperienced. They had been accustomed to triumph over the Turks, and therefore treated the coming danger with a most imprudent contempt. Tomoreus, especially, an archbishop, who had had a few light skirmishes with the Turks, boasted highly in his sermons to the army of his own prowess, and assured them of an easy victory.

When the king's troops were mustered, they did not amount on the whole to more than twenty-five thousand men, horse and foot. Officers of experience in the service foresaw the result of a conflict which was about to be undertaken with such inadequate means, and recommended at all events that the person of the sovereign should not be put in peril. It was suggested that he should retire to the castle of Buda. But to this proceeding the army objected, and declared that unless they were led by their sovereign they would not fight. This was also in accordance with the opinion of Tomoreus. Whereupon, the king set forward with his army, and encamped at Mohacs, at a short distance from the Turkish vanguard.

A body of Transylvanian horsemen having been expected to join the king, it was debated whether he should not defer giving battle until the arrival of a force so essential to his support against the enemy. The impetuosity of the archbishop, however, unfortunately swayed the councils of the day, and preparations were made for the encounter.

The vanguard of the Turks consisted of twenty thousand cavalry, which, being divided into four squadrons, harassed

the king's troops by skirmishes, continued throughout the night, as well as the day. So closely were they watched, that no man could attempt without danger to water his horse at the side of the Danube. They were compelled to obtain that indispensable element by digging pits in their camp. In the mean time Solyman arrived at Mohacs with the main body of his army. Tomoreus arranged the order of battle. He stationed the horsemen in companies at intervals amongst the infantry, fearing that the Turks might encompass his line, unless it were extended as far as possible. A small force was left to defend the tents, which were surrounded with waggons chained together; and near them a chosen body of cavalry was placed in reserve, in order to shield the king's person in case any disaster should occur.

It is said that the gunners employed on the Turkish side, being for the most part Christians, purposely pointed their artillery so high, that their fire was altogether harmless. Nevertheless, at the first onset, the Hungarians were completely routed, so multitudinous was the mass which had rushed against them. Tomoreus, who, though a great boaster, was also a valiant soldier, fell among the first that were slain. His noble companions in arms displayed their usual gallantry, but perished in this unequal battle, one after another; and the horsemen having been speedily destroyed or put into disorder, the camp remained open to the assault of the enemy. The garrison was too weak to make any defence; the troops reserved for the protection of the king's person consequently hastened to their aid. Louis beholding his army overthrown, and finding himself thus forsaken by his guard, took flight. Unacquainted with the country, he directed his horse into a deep marsh; the animal, endeavouring to extricate itself, plunged violently and fell backwards. The king, loaded with heavy armour, was thus buried in the marsh, where he was some time afterwards discovered and identified by one of his squires. Solyman continued his march triumphantly to Buda,

but he soon after quitted Hungary, which became a prey to civil wars, the result of a disputed succession.

We took our departure from Mohacs soon after three o'clock in the afternoon, having in the meanwhile dined on vermicelli soup, bouilli served up with beet-root, roast fowl presented on a couch of stewed cabbage, beef-steaks, boiled rice sweetened and browned before the fire, together with roast capon, accompanied as usual by plum sauce. I was glad to see Count P—— once more in his place at the table.

From the appearance of some fishing-boats, which I saw for the first time on the Danube, about two hours after we left Mohacs, I flattered myself with the hope that we began to enter the deepest part of the river, which, as it was now full a mile in width, was well entitled to be described as an inland sea. The banks, indeed, were still low and sandy, which detracted from its beauty. In the distance, on the right, a sugar-loafed mountain, rising above the summit of a range of hills, indicated an approaching change of scenery; we perceived the commencement of a forest on our left, lower down the river: but in other respects the country around us was altogether uninteresting. While I was indulging in a day-dream upon the novelties I was about to encounter, a sudden shock, of no great violence however warned us all that we were absolutely aground. The captain treated the accident with entire indifference, and it was not until he found that we were literally imbedded in the sand, that he even thought of despatching a man in the small boat to sound the river on either side. We had the mortification to observe that in every part of the river, at the distance of a few feet from the steamer, there was an overabundance of water, and that had we industriously sought for a sandbank on which to run the vessel, by no effort of skill could we have found it anywhere except on the spot where we were now detained. Instead of making any immediate exertions to extricate the boat from this disagreeable situation, our captain walked up and down the deck for a while, looking va-

cantly around him, scarcely knowing what to do. An anchor was at length borne out to a distance and thrown into the river, with a slight rope attached to it, which was carried round the axle of the windlass. The men were then set to work, with a view, by pulling at the anchor, to shift the boat from its unfortunate position; but the rope was no sooner strained than it broke; it was tied and broke again and again, until everybody saw that the cord was much too slender for the purpose. It was at length suggested that the only course which remained was to lighten the vessel of its cargo, when it would probably float of itself; but as this was an operation that would occupy some hours, and the day had now nearly reached its close, we were obliged to content ourselves with remaining motionless for the night.

The Tyrolese considerately resolved to console us all under our misfortune, by singing in concert some of their choicest national melodies. They had amongst them an admirable bass, and two or three excellent treble voices, which gave with great effect the leading stanzas; the whole, men and women, joined in the chorus. It was a singular musical entertainment on the bosom of the broad Danube, and ought to have had the Alps to re-echo the songs of the hunter, and the wild tones of the shepherd, which lost some portion of their cheering influence by being flung along these quiet waters. We could not but perceive that the simple people mingled with the song feelings of remembrance that they were already far from their native mountains, to which they were not soon to return.

The evening was beautiful. A warm golden tinge illumined the atmosphere all round the horizon; while, in the transparent azure of the concave above, myriads of worlds were exulting in their light, visited now and then by meteors, which passed like seraphic messengers from one region of the heavens to another. The waning moon rose late, and so low in the firmament that it seemed an apparition evoked by some en-

chantress from the waters around us. While I was contemplating this scene my attention was disturbed by a tremendous fire which broke out at some distance beyond the forest on our left. A column of dense smoke ascended in the sky, which reflecting the blaze below seemed itself an unearthly conflagration. In a little time the whole of the horizon in that direction appeared to be in flames; we concluded that the fire, which had probably begun in some village, as is often the case in this country, had reached the forest. The flames were reflected also in the Danube, and appeared to have threatened more than common dangers in their course, as we heard in the far distance the sound of horns spreading the alarm.

In the cabin, however, we all assembled in our usual spirits. The Countess N—— was the object of marked attention on the part of the gentlemen, amongst whom, I must confess, she distributed her smiles with laudable impartiality. Her sparkling black eyes evinced no want of self-possession, nor could I perceive that she was much distressed by her separation from her husband. The Count P—— was accompanied, on his return from Mohacs, by a kind of "hanger on," a military man, poor but merry, and though to the count habitually obsequious, a good-natured fellow. He spoke French fluently. In the course of several conversations which I had with this decayed gentleman, who seemed to know something of the world, he fully confirmed all I had hitherto heard of the spirit of liberty which prevails generally amongst the Hungarians, and of their fixed determination to convert their diet into a real representation of the kingdom. The example of England, he said, was not unknown to his countrymen, who greatly admired her institutions.

After supper we played at a round game called the "auction." The dealer held up a certain number of cards, taken indiscriminately from the pack, and sold them to the highest bidders. When the auction, which was conducted by Count P—— with infinite drollery, came to a conclusion, the produce was

collected and divided into four or five prizes, the first being the highest, and the others lessening in proportion. The remainder of the pack was distributed amongst the players. A second pack was then given to the dealer, who drew from it at hazard, without permitting any body to see them, as many cards as there were prizes to be contended for. These cards so drawn were placed separately on the table, and on the back of each a prize was deposited. He next proceeded to turn up successively the remainder of the second pack, comparing each card as it appeared with those held by the players, who laid down a corresponding card until the second pack was exhausted. Consequently there would at that period remain in their possession only the cards which corresponded with those under the prizes: these latter cards were finally displayed with due solemnity, and those who were the fortunate holders of similar ones won the prizes placed upon each. I have never seen a round game so productive as this was of interest, curiosity, and merriment.

Another laughter-stirring game is this. All the knaves, except the knave of clubs, are discharged from the pack. The cards are then dealt out to the party in hands of five each. If the party be not numerous enough to exhaust the pack at the first deal, then the hands are increased to eight or ten, in order to accomplish that purpose. The player who holds two cards of the same class—for instance, two aces, or two queens—puts them away, but he is not entitled to get rid of more than two at a time. The leading hand, on the left of the dealer, if he hold two such cards, turns them up, and places them in the middle of the table; if he do not hold a pair, then the lead passes on to him who does. After losing these two cards, he then places the cards remaining in his hand on the table, back upwards. His neighbour next takes one card out of the hand so laid down, makes a pair, if he can, in order to reduce his hand in the same manner, and puts down the remainder. The third player follows the same course, and it is obvious that as

the company holds amongst them two pairs of all the cards except the knaves, the knave of clubs must ultimately fall to the lot of some unfortunate wight. He or she, for this game knows no distinction of sex, is then decorated with a black eye, or a pair of moustaches, by means of a burnt cork. This is a game not merely of fun but of absolute riot; for the operation of painting being usually resisted, the available force of the company is called out to carry the law into execution.

At an early hour the following morning (26th) a large flat-bottomed boat was rowed alongside our steamer, and the crew with the assistance of our Tyrolese in a few hours transferred the greater part of the cargo from one vessel to the other. The steamer, having been thus materially lightened, rose from its bed in the sand, and floated into deeper water, where it was reloaded, and about one o'clock in the afternoon we resumed our voyage. While the removals of the cargo were going on, I observed that the cases in which it was contained were usually directed in the Latin language, in a style of which the following is a specimen:

"Spectabili ac Perillustri Domino Francisco Najmay."

The scenery on either side of the river continued, during the whole of the day, as uninteresting as that which we had already passed. The country on the left was still occupied by forests. On the right I observed the ruins of an old fortification, of which a round tower and the principal castle remain. Here and there on the same bank we noticed villages built after the fashion of Mohacs. Immense flights of wild ducks appeared from time to time, but we found it impossible to get a shot at any of them, very much to the disappointment of a military aspirant, who was valet to the Tyrolese doctor. This man was always dressed in a hussar jacket and tight pantaloons, over which he wore Hessian boots, with enormous spurs attached to them. It was amusing to see him wait upon his master of a morning in this attire, with towel and basin in his

hand, or perhaps a clean shirt, or perhaps a pestle and mortar to mix up some drugs. I have no doubt, such was the ludicrous military vanity of this fellow, that of the two he would much rather lose his place than his spurs, which, by the by, were perpetually tripping him up. He disdained to mingle with the colonists unless when he was commissioned to administer a dose, a duty which he performed with very visible reluctance.

During the evening, the deck before the mast seemed to have been turned into a barber's shop, the operator being one of the Tyrolese *women*, who went through her labours with such admirable skill and expedition, that even the gentlemen availed themselves of her services. When this necessary office was over, prayers were said by the Tyrolese, who all assembled together for that purpose, after which an elderly matron sprinkled holy water amongst them.

The towns of Vuckovar and Kamenitz, which we passed by without visiting the following day (27th), appeared, at a distance on our right, to be of some importance. The former boasts of a fine convent for monks, and several churches, which to us, at least, seemed more than usually handsome. Trees shaded the streets as usual. Several boats laden with black earthenware were in its little port, and groups of girls were engaged at the river-side in procuring supplies of water; they took it away in pitchers, suspended at the extremities of an elastic pole, which was balanced on the right shoulder. Wicker cars were busily driving in and out of the town, and in a field near it a troop of cavalry were exercising their horses.

Not far from Vuckovar, on an abrupt hill, which immediately overlooks the Danube, there is another monastery, said to have been erected by a prince of the house of Odescalchi, an Italian family, whose wealth was at one period of their career supposed to be inexhaustible. The establishment belongs to the Franciscans, and appeared to be almost a town in itself.

The country as we approached Peterwardein improved rapidly upon us. On our right, undulating hills, wooded with shrubs, villages prettily situated on the heights, their church spires rising above the trees, which no village is without, announced a more fertile, a more populous, and a more cultivated part of Hungary than we had seen since our departure from Pesth. I remained generally on deck, watching the variations of scenery which presented themselves, as in a moving panorama. I did not fail, however, to mingle occasionally with my fellow-passengers, for whom the aspect of the country had not the same attractions of novelty. I found the gentlemen, whenever I went down, almost constantly engaged at cards—and the ladies knitting, or telling each other's fortunes on cards, or arranging them on the table in a diversity of figures, which required no little ingenuity, the result of many a long idle hour's experience.

I have no objection myself to a merry round game for an hour or so at night, or to a determined rubber or two of whist at the same genial season; but I have an invincible distaste for any such amusement, under any circumstances whatever, in the light of day. This my new friends soon found out, and they could not account for it, though I explained it as an affair of habit. However, one auction game, they said, we must have before we separated, in which the whole cabin must be interested, and the first prize was to be accompanied by a licence to the winner, if a gentleman, to kiss every lady on board. My gallantry was touched by this proposal, and, of course, I sat down at the table, upon which there was a general shout of triumph.

The ladies joined in the game, as they said, for their own protection; but it was plain enough that none of them wished to win the first prize, though it was equally clear, that they were anxious it should not fall to the lot of a huge Hungarian sergeant, whom Count P——, for the drollery of the contrast between this man and the delicate countess, had purposely in-

vited from before the mast, to participate in our contest. I need not say that great was the rivalry at the auction, over which the count, as usual, presided, so that the prices at which the cards were knocked down went far beyond all former example.

In due course the cards were drawn for the prizes and placed under them—the ladies were already preparing, by coquettish smiles, and transient blushes, and gentle palpitations, for the visitation they were about to undergo. At length the ominous card was called out, when lo! to the mortification, most especially of the young Tyrolese doctor, and to the consternation of the pretty countess, the sergeant proved to be the happy man. Her ladyship with inimitable grace allowed the cyclop to kiss her hand, with which he had the good taste to be contented; but he had ample revenge, amidst peals of laughter, on a dry old maid, whom nobody would have kissed but himself.

We arrived at Neusatz, opposite Peterwardein, at two o'clock; and after dinner, at which we drank to each other's health and happiness with feelings of kindness, if not of friendship, whose evident sincerity and warmth showed that the moment of separation was not without pain on all sides, I found myself almost alone in the cabin.

The boat having been detained for an hour at Neusatz, I strolled through the town, which consists of long straggling streets recently built, and full of shops, in which were sold toys, grocery, clothes, censers, ironmongery, tinware, earthenware, wooden bowls, dishes, and trenchers, all of very rude fashion, and jewellery of an ordinary description. I saw several Greek priests here, in long cloth cassocks, shovel hats, and long beards. They were remarkably neat in their persons, and humble in their demeanour. The principal church of the town had not much to boast of, except a series of ensigns which were taken during the Austrian wars with Turkey.

Neusatz is connected by a bridge of boats with the more

ancient town of Peterwardein, on the opposite bank of the Danube, which is defended by one of the strongest fortresses on the river. The works are erected on a lofty rock, naturally very difficult of access from the river, and protected on the land side by extensive bastions and towers, which exhibit a formidable appearance. The place was well garrisoned.

Five of the boats which contributed to sustain the bridge having been disconnected at one end from the line, and suffered to yield to the force of the current, they gradually swung round, together with that portion of the bridge upon them, so as to afford an opening, through which we passed on our way down the river. Our cabin passengers were now reduced to four: a little humdrum widow, who never ceased to chatter, the Tyrolese doctor, a young surgeon who joined him from Neusatz, and myself. Carlovitz, a town prettily situated on the side of a hill, and celebrated for its wines, soon attracted observation on our right. The hills gradually increased in boldness as we proceeded, until night veiled them from our view, when we cast anchor in the middle of the stream. The sky was overcast with clouds, threatening a disagreeable change of weather.

About nine o'clock on the following morning (27th), the spires of Semlin appeared in view, and a little further down the river the cupolas and minarets of Belgrade. The steamer having cast anchor before the former place, I immediately went ashore, and explored its curiosities. It being Sunday, the church bells were ringing in all directions, and the market, which was well supplied with vegetables and fruit, including a peculiarly fine species of green water-melon, was thronged with people decked out in several varieties of holiday costume, Hungarian, Greek, Turkish, and Armenian.

After hearing mass in one of the Roman catholic churches, which was attended by a respectable and, apparently, a very devout congregation, I went to the church belonging to the Greek Catholic form of worship. As usual in these edifices, it

had no pews or seats of any description in the body of the church; near the screen, behind which the alter was secluded, a few stalls were arranged on each side, not, however, for sitting but for standing, and a round platform was raised in the middle, I presume for the lecturer or preacher. The screen, a curious specimen of art of the middle ages, was elaborately carved and gilt, and ornamented with portraits of the saints, which were painted in the old Venetian style. In the centre there was a doorway veiled by a curtain. Very few persons were present at the service, the greater part of which, according to the rites of the Greek church, was performed with mysterious secrecy behind the screen: at certain parts of the mass the curtain was drawn aside, and the ceremonies were then witnessed by those in attendance. There was no organ, but a small and very indifferent choir sung, in the ancient Gregorian chaunt, those portions of the mass which are commonly set to music.

Semlin being the frontier town of the Austrian dominions in that quarter, where travellers proceeding from Servia, or the interior of Turkey, are obliged to submit to a quarantine of fourteen days, I was anxious to hear the latest intelligence concerning the plague, which, I was informed at Vienna, prevailed in Constantinople to a serious extent. With the assistance of our engineer, I soon found out a French agent, who acts as the interpreter of the government; and from him I learned, with no small pain, that the plague continued to increase, that from eight hundred to a thousand persons were swept away by it daily; and that amongst the most recent victims was Mr. Wood, an Englishman, who was dragoman to the British embassy. This fact excited some alarm in my mind, as I had been hitherto taught to believe that the Franks usually escaped the pestilence, either from their more cleanly habits, their more substantial diet, or from their residing in a more airy quarter of the capital. Before we left Semlin, however, an Austrian courier came on board, who stated that a

gentleman in the service of his government had passed through, from the quarantine station, only the day before, on his way from Constantinople, and that his report was more favourable. The plague had undoubtedly been very violent; but it had latterly been on the decline. The post from Semlin to Constantinople usually takes nine days; and I was assured that the latest letters fully confirmed this intelligence.

CHAPTER V.

Battle of Salankement - Preparations of the Turks - Imperial army - Approach of the enemy—Arrangements for action—Victory of the Imperialists—Belgrade—Semendria—Expanse of the Danube—Islands—Sunset—Spirits of the river.

Not far from Semlin was fought the great battle of Salankement, which struck the first decisive blow against the establishment of Turkish power in Europe. The early months of the year 1691 were spent both by the Turks and the Imperialists, in continual skirmishes, which were attended with various success, as if the two parties had intended to exercise and perfect themselves in military tactics, by way of preparation for the general conflict which was to take place in the autumn. The fortifications of Buda were materially strengthened. The counterscarps of Esseck on the Drave were enlarged, and four new batteries raised; and as soon as the ice on the Danube was thawed, about the month of March, a great train of artillery, and vast quantities of ammunition, were sent to the latter fortress, which was fixed upon as the general rendezvous of the Imperial army.

In consequence of the losses which the Turks had sustained in the skirmishes just mentioned, they were not in a situation to take the field until the middle of July. Their preparations

were carried on by land and water upon an immense scale. Troops were assembled from the remotest parts of Asia, and directed to march for Hungary. Belgrade was converted into a magazine for stores of every description. Upwards of three hundred ships, laden with ammunition and provisions, arrived at Vidin, with a view to convey their cargoes to Belgrade. Some of these ships were intercepted at Moldava, and other places on the Danube, by the Imperialists, but the greater part succeeded in reaching their destination. The river was crowded besides with Turkish galleys of war.

In the mean time, a fruitless attempt was made by the representative of England at Constantinople to mediate a peace between the belligerents. The sultan Solyman died, and was succeeded by his brother Achmet, a prince of a lively and jocund humour, and withal a poet and musician. On ascending the throne, he gave orders, however, for prosecuting the war with the utmost vigour, in which he was warmly seconded by his grand vizier. Tartars, Curds, Arabians, Albanians, were all pressed into the service; and as the different detachments of the Turkish army were passing over the bridges of the Save, they were counted at above 87,000 men, exclusive of 3,000 seamen, and some spahees who lagged behind, and the rabble usually attendant on camps.

The Imperialists, under the command of Prince Lewis of Baden, a brave and fortunate, though not always a very discreet soldier, assembled at Peterwardein towards the end of July, followed by ships and vessels of different classes filled with provisions, ammunition, and other necessaries. The prince ordered Peterwardein to be strongly fortified. The Imperial army, mustering sixty-six thousand men, marched on as far as Carlovitz, where they rested for a few days; they then advanced as far as Salankement, where they pitched their tents. When the prince, however, learned that the grand vizier had passed the Save, he continued his march to Semlin.

An inconvenience, however, soon arose from the ships at-

tending the Imperial camp being unable to descend the river below Peterwardein, in consequence of the great number of Turkish vessels constantly passing up and down the Danube. The provisions and other stores intended for the supply of the camp were thus placed at too great a distance from it. The Turkish army moreover was posted on an eminence, which would have given them great advantages if attacked in their trenches, within which they waited for that purpose. The prince accordingly fell back on Salankement. The Turks, imagining this movement to be a retreat from fear of meeting them, sent some cavalry to harass their rear, which, however, were repulsed; but, soon perceiving that the principal object of the manœuvre was to approach nearer to the Imperial resources at Peterwardein, the grand vizier hastened to march beyond them, and effected his object with so much celerity, and in so masterly a manner, that in the course of twenty-four hours he established his camp with regular walls breast-high, and bastions, on which cannon were planted. Thus all correspondence between the Imperialists and their dépôt at Peterwardein was effectually intercepted. The first result of this successful operation was the capture of two hundred and fifty waggons, carrying provisions to the Imperial army, and of one hundred ships belonging to their suttlers.

The prince had now no alternative but to give or accept a decisive battle without delay. Accordingly, early on the morning of the 19th of August, having placed his troops in battle-array, he marched towards the Turks, the right wing being under his own command, the left under the courageous, wise, and experienced Count Dunewald. At noon both armies were face to face. The Turks, including sixty thousand of the best soldiers in the Ottoman dominions, and fifteen thousand veteran Janissaries, had the Danube behind them, and in their front a deep ditch, as well as a parapet; their left wing was rather exposed.

A bomb was fired as the signal of battle. The Imperialists

advanced until they arrived within two hundred paces of the enemy. The artillery on each side was immediately brought into action. The right wing rushed to the encounter with great gallantry, but, unfortunately, before the left could come up, in consequence of high grass and bushes which were in its way. The prince entered the Turkish entrenchments; the Janissaries, however, fired from behind their parapets with so much effect, that many, both of the chief and subaltern officers, were killed or wounded. This unequal contest was carried on from three o'clock in the afternoon for several hours: almost all the superior officers of the Imperial infantry were slain.

The battle was equally disastrous on the other side of the field. The Turks attacked the left wing with great fury. For a while they were steadfastly repulsed, but the enemy being numerous in that direction, collected all their cavalry, and, falling on their antagonists, cut down two battalions on the ground where they stood. It was apprehended about six o'clock that the Imperialists had no chance of saving one man from the battle. They had no place of retreat, no bastions to defend them from the universal slaughter with which they were menaced. The desperate nature of their situation, however, animated their hearts with fresh courage, and restored strength to their arms. The men stationed to guard the baggage, and the troops in reserve, rushed into the thick of the action; the surviving officers and soldiers redoubled their exertions; the very fugitives turned round, ashamed of seeing their companions sacrificed. Such was the ardour with which they attacked the Turkish army, that the latter began to retire to their camp; when Prince Lewis advanced to their support, drove the enemy from the eminence on which their artillery was posted, and with the assistance of some fresh Hungarian troops which had come seasonably into the field, literally hewed down a passage, through which the right wing once more advanced. The result was no longer doubtful; the

Turks, attacked on all sides between their trenches and the Danube, were ultimately overcome with tremendous slaughter, such being the rage of the combatants on both sides, that neither would give quarter or receive it.

The grand vizier, with such of the Turkish cavalry as could escape from the field of battle, fled beyond the Save, whither they were so closely pursued, that the roads were strewed with dead bodies; he himself died of his wounds at Belgrade, as did also the seraskier and the colonel of the Janissaries. Twenty-five thousand of the enemy fell on that memorable day. They lost one hundred and fifty-four pieces of cannon, a great number of ensigns, including the grand vizier's standard, ten thousand tents, many chests of copper and silver money, innumerable camels, mules, and other beasts of burthen. Of the fifteen thousand Janissaries engaged in the action, only three thousand returned to Constantinople. The losses on the side of the Imperialists were also very great; so much so, that the king of France, whose counsels had encouraged Achmet to prosecute the war, instructed his ambassador to console the sultan by assuring him, that such another victory would ruin the emperor.

We quitted Semlin at noon, and passed by Belgrade, keeping, however, as close as possible to the Hungarian bank of the Danube, in obedience to the quarantine laws, which are enforced here with the utmost rigour. The city, which is associated with so many interesting recollections of the wars between Austria and the Ottoman empire, looks a splendid collection of mosques, with their white tall minarets, palaces with their domes, gardens, cypresses, and shady groves. The citadel, which is strongly fortified, occupies a lofty hill that overlooks every part of the town, and is well calculated for its defence. The palace and seraglio of the pacha were pointed out to me by our captain; they cover a considerable space of ground, and exhibit an imposing appearance. The river Theiss already mentioned, by which it is supposed the cholera

a few years ago found its way into Hungary from Russia, flows into the Danube a little above Semlin. Here it is further enlarged by the junction of the Save. I expected, therefore, to have found the Danube at Belgrade exhibiting some signs of grandeur and of commercial activity. It does, indeed, present a most magnificent sheet of water, upon which, if it were deep enough, the whole British navy might ride with safety; but, with the exception of a few small wherries, in which some dirty Turks were fishing lazily in the sun, there was scarcely a symptom of animation around us. Belgrade itself looked at a distance like a city of the dead.

The Hungarian side of the river was flat and desolate; the erection of mud cottages here and there on piles, three or four feet from the ground, indicated the height to which the river is raised occasionally by inundations. The cottages which we perceived sometimes on the Servian shore were equally miserable, though the bank was much higher, crowned at some distance by finely-wooded hills. By four o'clock in the afternoon Semendria came in sight. This was once an important naval station and powerful fortress in the hands of the Turks; but it has for many years fallen into decay. I saw in its port two brigs of war, of eight guns each, which had been recently built for the Prince of Servia, Milosch, by a company of carpenters from the island of Zante. They were both aground, and appeared to have no chance of being extricated from their position until the winter. Semendria is prettily situated at the foot of a hill, which almost approaches to the dignity of a mountain. It is defended on the side of the Danube by walls and castles in the old style of fortification, which look picturesque at a distance, but could afford no protection against the artillery of modern times. The castles seemed to be the habitation of a numerous tribe of birds. Near the town I observed a pretty villa, in the grounds belonging to which two ladies, veiled like nuns, were promenading.

The Danube seemed, near Belgrade, an expanse of waters

which would have afforded ample space for the whole of the British navy. We had scarcely left Semendria behind us when the river became still wider, resembling indeed a vast lake, sufficient, as to superficial extent at least, to contain all the navies of the world. It was here in every respect a truly magnificent object. The more I became acquainted with this noble river, the greater was my astonishment that it was so little known to Europe, and hitherto so rarely made use of for the purposes of commerce. Just as the sun was on the decline, flinging his last rays on the tranquil mirror beneath us, the Tyrolese crowded on deck, and favoured us with several of their national songs, which they performed with infinite spirit. It was the last time I was to hear them, as we expected to arrive at night at Vipalanka, where they were to debark on their way to Transylvania.

After passing Kubin, we perceived the commencement of several groups of islands, which, however beautiful in themselves, diminish the majestic character the Danube would otherwise have maintained the whole way from Semendria to Moldava. They occasionally divide the waters into two or three rivers in appearance; none of which, however, can be considered as insignificant. The main current which runs by the Hungarian bank retains uniformly much of the general grandeur of the parent flood. These islands are densely wooded with osiers and evergreen shrubs, which afford a safe refuge for water-fowl of every description. Wild ducks and geese frequently rose in clouds one above another in the sky, winging their way towards their island homes. Now and then a solitary eagle sailed through the firmament, directing his course to the mountains, which appeared like pure azure far away on the horizon.

As we proceeded among the islands, we could not avoid admiring the picturesque order in which they were disposed; the vernal verdure which every tree and every leaf and every blade of grass exhibited, while the brown tints of the woods

and fields in all other quarters proclaimed the fading season of the year. This contrast of decay on one side, with the blooming freshness of the islands on the other, the variety of their forms, their shady inlets, their clusters of magnificent shrubs hung with flowers that sometimes rivalled the rose, sometimes, the strawberry, the snowdrop, the lily, or the blue convolvulus; the wild beauty of their woods, the deep solitude in which they seemed to be secluded from all the world, interrupted only by the screams or rushing sounds of countless birds hastening to their shores, gave them a most romantic appearance, especially in the golden light of evening which still lingered around them.

The unruffled surface of the Danube reflected the whole canopy of the sky, and gave back in softened tones the saffron, ruby, and purple lines of fire, which still glowed in the west. The image of the departing sun was lengthened in the waters, where it appeared like a long perpendicular column of light. This optical delusion was the more striking, as the part of the Danube in which we had now arrived was, in fact, little better than a series of shallows, through which we were steering our course with the utmost difficulty.

As soon as the sun went down, the night became rapidly so dark, that I know not how we should have contrived to pursue our way, had not some fields of stubble on the left bank been accidentally set on fire. The flame threw its light far along the river, and materially assisted the helmsman to keep his track. Here and there, among the inlets of the islands on the opposite shore, lights also were visible, proceeding from fires kindled for the purposes of cooking, by fisherman or fowlers, whose little boats were moored in the neighbourhood. Vast pillars of smoke moved now and then over the blazing stubbles, assuming the most fantastic shapes; sometimes, as they apparently flitted along the bank, they might have been painted by an imaginative spectator as the spirits of the Danube.

CHAPTER VI.

Windings of the Danube—Civility of the Moldavian—Arrival at Moldava—Arrangements for Voyage to Orsova—A Wallachian Beauty—Flock of Geese—Ditto of Children—Woodmen—Commencement of Mountain Chain—Earthquakes in Hungary—Rustic Sounds—Peasantry—Removal to fishing-boat—Our Equipment—Accusation of Robbery—Haunt of Wallachian Brigands—Romantic Gorge—Caverns.

I WAS awoke during the night by a violent storm of thunder and lightning, which I attempted to witness from the deck. The sky was an entire canopy of fire, and the thunder pealed incessantly, until at length the rain fell in warm showers which soon became a deluge. I was glad to take refuge in my berth again, and slept soundly until a late hour of the morning (29th), when I found our Tyrolese and their officers engaged in landing their effects at Vipalanka. The bank was converted into a marsh by the rain; but, by the assistance of planks, they succeeded in effecting their object. The village was at a distance, and its mean appearance did not induce me to pay it a visit. Nearly opposite to Vipalanka are situated the village and fortress of Rama, on the brow of a bold and lofty promontory. The fortress still looks respectable, though partly in ruins; it commands the Danube at a point where begin those amazing serpentine undulations which form, perhaps, its most striking characteristic.

The map will show, that, if a canal were cut in a straight line from Rama to Vidin, it would be the cord of a vast irregular arch, full of windings, which indicate the various struggles made by this river in the early ages of the globe, before and after it forced its way through the heart of the mountains below Moldava, in its efforts to reach the Black Sea. Such a canal would save the navigator a period of full three days, which the mere deviations of the river in that quarter at pre-

sent consume. Such a canal would, moreover, avoid some of the most serious difficulties now impeding the passage of the Danube, especially in seasons of drought, which are peculiarly felt in the whole of that interval. I despair of such a work being undertaken for the next half-century ;(1) but I am apprehensive that, until it shall be accomplished, the steam navigation of the Danube, at least by vessels of any considerable burden, will be liable to frequent interruptions. In the river, cranes were wading without any difficulty, so low was the water in almost every direction.

When we departed from Vipalanka for Moldava our passengers were reduced to the Servian Jew and his pale daughter, the Moldavian adventurer, and myself. The latter contrived throughout the voyage to amuse himself and his associates by his inexhaustible stores of poetry and anecdote, but he had not hitherto addressed himself with any thing like determination to my attention, or to that of the Jew. Finding, however, that we were bound further down the river, he gradually mingled in our conversation by volunteering the information which he possessed concerning the portion of the voyage we had still to achieve, and conducted himself with so much civility, that notwithstanding his objectionable appearance, I began to like the fellow.

Although the rain had ceased, the morning continued cloudy; but we were compensated in some degree for the interruption of the fine weather, which we lately enjoyed, by the agreeable change of scenery that now broke upon our

(1) I learn, however, while this sheet is passing through the press, that a determination has been taken by the Austrian government, upon the suggestion of Count Szechenyi, to cut canals at two different points of the Servian bank, in order to avoid the falls of the Danube between Moldava and Gladova. Prince Milosch has already sanctioned this important undertaking; and there is little doubt that the Porte also will give its assent to a project calculated to be highly beneficial to Turkey.

view. We glided along, sounding vigilantly however all the way, between two ranges of hill, wooded to the top, and opening now and then into valleys and ravines, in which neat white cottages were scattered, and shepherds were seen driving their flocks afield. The bendings of the river were so abrupt, that sometimes we could have imagined ourselves to have entered upon an extensive lake, whence there was no outlet apparent until we reached the headland round which the current preserved its course. As soon as we turned that point, the scene behind us was as completely concealed from the eye as if a curtain of cloud had been dropped upon it.

Fields of Indian corn, hills deeply indented by the rains, and exhibiting sometimes the appearance of artificial fortresses, sometimes retiring to a distance, and leaving in front abrupt mounds of the most fantastic shapes; villages with their churches and steeples on one side, and churches and minarets on the other; Servians on our right fishing in cockle-shells of boats; Hungarians on the left tending herds of swine; mountains towering in the distance—in turn engaged our attention until we arrived at Moldava, where we cast anchor at noon.

Had the plan of the directors of the enterprise been duly carried into execution, we should have immediately quitted Moldava in a light boat rowed by four stout Wallachians, and drawing little more than six inches of water. A neat wherry destined for that purpose was in fact lying near the village; but to our dismay we were informed that, in many parts of the Danube between Moldava and Orsova, a distance of about nine leagues, there were not six inches of water, nor even three. The cargo was intended to be sent on by land, but there was no mode of conveyance for the passengers except a rough flat-bottomed boat belonging to a fisherman, who would not permit us to have the use of it, unless it was committed to his own guidance and rowed by his own comrades. We were informed by the agent of the company, an Italian, who assumed an air of great importance, that we should easily reach

Orsova in eight hours at the utmost. Having no choice, therefore, save the flat-bottomed boat, or a pedestrian tour of twice the distance over horrible mountain-roads, we submitted to our fate, and it was arranged that the fisherman should take charge of us at day-break the next morning. (1)

Moldava is an emporium of some commerce in its way. Several boats were moored near the bank, laden with hay, which groups of peasants were engaged in transferring to strong huge cars constructed in the form of a V. Some fifty or sixty oxen, by which these cars were to be drawn, were lying on the shore ruminating, or wandering about by way of relaxation. The cars proceeded to the waterside in succession; in one of these, which was waiting for its turn, I observed a remarkably fine Wallachian woman, spinning wool from a distaff in the primeval fashion. She was attired in a short woollen white mantle, under which was a robe of printed calico, which, without appearing in front, came down below the mantle behind. A neat linen chemise was folded in plaits upon her bosom, beneath which she sported a gay dimity apron, and a canvass petticoat. Her raven-black hair was carefully divided in front, braided over her ears, and detained in a knot behind by a tortoiseshell comb, from which was suspended a snow-white linen veil that fell on her back gracefully. Neither shoe nor sandal served to hide her feet, which might have been chosen by Phidias for the statue of Minerva. This noble-looking woman, whose features were all of the Grecian mould, was the mother of three very fine young men, who were standing by her, accompanied by a huge mastiff, as if their purpose had been to exhibit a living *tableau* from the pastoral age and country of Agamemnon.

Amongst the busy group, a young Greek priest recognised some friends. He seemed a man of authority in his peaked

(1) In this respect, also, an improvement has taken place since my visit; the steam-boat now descends as far as Kozla, about seven leagues from Moldava.

Shylock-looking hat, blue sutan, cincture of wide blue ribbon, comely beard, and silver-headed cane. I pitied a little boy who was employed in urging a numerous colony of geese through the crowd; they seemed very much disposed to prefer making the journey by water, while he was equally determined in favour of the dry land. Now a wild dog put them all into confusion, when off they half-waddled, half-flew to the edge of the river. Now they were fairly on the march again, when the leader, desirous of cooling his bill, suddenly gave the word of command. A general mutiny ensued; the boy ran breathless after them, throwing sticks and stones, sand and cow-dung, at the fugitives, until he succeeded once more in restoring discipline. His patience was, after many severe trials, eventually rewarded by success. On another part of the shore some Servians were squatted in a line, with sacks of onions before them, which they had brought across the river for sale. A plank was placed between them and their Hungarian customers, who stood at a little distance, neither being allowed to pass over the plank, which represented the quarantine. The bargains were conducted on the part of the Servians by a single spokesman, who appeared an extremely knowing sort of personage.

I walked into the village, or rather, I should say, the lower part of the "town," which is chiefly inhabited by fishermen. It is inferior in every respect to Mohacs, the cottages having all roofs of wood, wicker walls plastered with mud, and even wicker chimneys. As I was strolling quietly along, a troop of almost naked little urchins gathered, shouting, around me, and grasping my right hand kissed it with tokens of fervour, which, I confess, I should have excused under the circumstances, not knowing exactly what might be the practical recollections impressed on the said hand of the honours which they thought fit to bestow. A few small pieces of silver had the effect of dispersing this group, and also of diffusing information through the whole town of the arrival of a stranger.

Accordingly, as I proceeded, my steps were literally beset by armies of ragged figures, who claimed my hand. I gave them to understand, in the course of a regular parley, that I had no more silver, upon which I was suffered to make a retreat, without being enabled to visit the upper part of the "town," where, as I afterwards learned, much better houses and a respectable class of inhabitants are to be found.

The mountainous scenery of the Danube commences a little below Moldava. I set out to climb one of the eminences, from which I might command a view of the country. I had no gun, no arms of any description, nothing except an umbrella, which I might use in self-defence. I never, by the way, encountered an Englishman travelling abroad or at home without an umbrella—it seems a national distinction. I do not know that I acted with much prudence in thus wandering alone and unarmed in a strange, and, I may add, a more than semi-barbarous region; the more especially as in the course, of my excursion among these mountains, I met now and then savage-looking woodmen returning home from the neighbouring thickets, driving before them donkeys almost hidden beneath their burdens of brambly firewood, and bearing on their shoulders heavy axes, with which if they were so disposed, they might have annihilated me without the slightest danger of discovery. But in all such cases I was circumspect, and being nearly as tall and as strong as the ordinary run of men, I had few apprehensions about encountering at least a single foe, if not taken unawares.

As I ascended, I found that the mountains which I trod were but steps to higher and higher ranges, which rose dimly in the distance, and appeared to occupy a considerable portion of the country on both sides of the Danube. By what process the river forced its way among them—whether they were violently separated from each other by repeated volcanic operations, or whether the flood created its own channel by loosening masses of rock and driving them before it—I had no means of con-

jecturing. The chain commences here almost like a wall at either side of the current; but the undulations of the hills which I had observed on our approach to Moldava, as well as of the lower mountains at some distance from the banks, strongly favour the supposition that a vast inundation had accumulated in all that region before an opening was found for it to the Euxine.

The impression I received from contemplating the scene before me was, that the channel through which the river now flows was opened through the mountains by an earthquake. Convulsions of this description are by no means uncommon in Hungary. So lately as the year 1815 three shocks occurred in one day at Moor, about thirty miles to the west of Buda. That place appears to have experienced repeated and violent shocks, the most severe of which occurred in January and February 1810. While they lasted, the earth opened, several houses were thrown down, and a formidable fissure was made in the dome of the Franciscan church. A commission was appointed, consisting of several distinguished professors, to inquire into the circumstances of this earthquake. They repaired to Moor for the purpose, and from their report it appears that this town is situated in a valley, between hills entirely composed of magnesian limestone; that the mountain Csoka, near the town, was the central point of the earthquake, and that Moor, and the villages in its neighbourhood, suffered most from the agitation.

Dr. Bright gives the following summary of the report made by the learned commissioners, Kitaibel, Tomtsany, and Fabricy. "The first shock was experienced about four o'clock in the afternoon of the 14th of January; it lasted about seven seconds; and throughout the whole night subterraneous noises, resembling the reports of distant cannon, kept the inhabitants in constant alarm. This first shock was succeeded by many others through a course of several weeks, and, occasionally, even for six months. One person distinctly counted one hundred and forty-four between the 22d of January and 5th of

February; and others asserted that, between the 14th of January and the 13th of February, they had felt one thousand! Few of them lasted more than two seconds; they were more frequent and more severe in the night; and it was thought that a kind of regularity was observable with respect to their severity, so that the shocks were most felt in the evening, about midnight, and about three o'clock in the morning. The sensation produced was that of a sudden perpendicular shock, preceded by a report, and followed by a fluctuating motion, not simply undulating and passing on, but often moving backwards and forwards. The motion, however, was distinctly progressive; and persons both heard a noise approach, and saw the objects successively set in motion. Some who were going away from the hill of Csoka, hearing a loud report, looked back, and thought they saw the hill approaching them; and some, who, during the earthquake, were in the forest, perceived the trees move towards them with the undulation of the surface. The effect extended over several miles. Many towers were thrown down, or partially injured: and the earth in several places rent with fissures of 60 or 100 fathoms in length, and a foot in breadth. Some wells entirely lost their water, and springs burst out where before they did not exist. Three lives only were lost. Lightning was frequent during the period of the severest earthquakes; and some declared they had perceived a strong sulphureous odour."

In the month of September, 1813, shocks were experienced on the same day both at Pesth and Ædenburg: in Transylvania, also, they have been frequent. "In the district denominated Burzenland," says Dr. Bright, "a most severe earthquake took place in October 1802. In the village of Brenndorf it overthrew above fifty houses, and destroyed several of the country churches. In one place the motion was so great that the roof of the church was, on one side, raised at least three yards from the wall, and then regained its situation before the building fell: and at the village of Rothback, Marien-

burg informs us (in the Zeitschrift von und für Ungern), that a column of water rose out of a fissure formed by the convulsion, which continued to throw a fountain several feet in the air. The effects of this earthquake were experienced as far as Bucharest."

I have made these extracts in order to show the great probability which exists that, by a similar operation of nature, the mountains in this district were rent asunder to afford a passage to the Danube.

A few white cottages were sprinkled on the declivities of the mountains, and swineherds were seen here and there driving their undisciplined companions homeward. A train of waggons laden with woolpacks, and drawn by oxen, whose bells tinkled in the air, was descending from the northern heights; but on the Servian side of the river all was silence and desolation. I thought the evening was about to close in abruptly, as after a slight shower of rain the mountains and hills around me suddenly put on their mantles of mist. The sun setting with great splendour, soon, however, changed the scene, arraying their prominent slopes in robes of light, and dispersing the vapours which were fast gathering all round the horizon.

As I returned to my temporary home I loitered, not unpleased, to listen to the variety of rustic noises which the close of the day brought with it—the barking of dogs, the still tinkling bells of the oxen already arrived at the river-side, the crack of the swineherd's whip, the distant calls of voices echoing in the mountains, the rare and sleepy twitter of the birds, the shouts of children in the village, and the merry sounds of a violin. A few old men and their grown-up hardy daughters were dredging for minnows in the river, apparently with little sucsess. The woolpacks were all discharged on the bank, in order to be loaded the next morning on board the steam-boat, which was to depart without delay on its return to Pesth. The peasants who had arrived with the waggons exhibited, to me

at least, a singular appearance. Some were in canvass shirts, trousers, and round woolly caps, without any other protection against cold or rain; others added to this attire a goat-skin in its natural condition, without being even trimmed of its superfluities. I could not have distinguished the women from the men, had not the hair of the former being platted and fastened under a small linen cap, which was fitted closely on the top of the head. I soon lost sight of the whole of this motley assemblage in the dusk of night, when I resumed my old station in the cabin, there being no such thing as an inn at Moldava.

The Servian Jew found an opportunity of sending his daughter with some friends across the river; he intended to proceed to Vidin. The poet also was still fated to be my companion, as his object was to get back to Jassy. I own that, with all my respect for his talents, and with all the philosophic patience which I have acquired from some little experience in travelling, I could not enter into discussion with him as to the arrangements necessary to be made for the following morning without considerable twinges of reluctance. I had no thought of preparing stores for the expedition, as I presumed that we should reach Orsova early in the afternoon. He advised me, however, to provide myself with a cold chicken or two, and a bottle of rum, a suggestion which I took care to adopt, though it led me to suspect that my period of inevitable companionship with himself would be rather longer than I had already apprehended.

The morning came in all the breathing brightness of summer, though we were just on the eve of October. It had been arranged that the fisherman and his associates should be with us at five o'clock, but they failed to make their appearance until seven. They excused themselves by asking, whether any body could have expected that they should commence their labours before they had breakfasted? Our luggage having been removed into the flat-bottomed barge, the poet, the Jew,

and I assumed our places, after taking a friendly leave of the captain and the engineer, from both of whom I experienced every kind of civility which they could possibly show to a countryman.

The master, or patron of the boat as he is more usually called, was a short weather-beaten old man, who had already counted more than seventy winters. The pupil of one eye was completely dimmed, and of the other scarcely sufficient remained sound to admit more than a single ray of light. Yet through that small aperture he issued glances of authority, which, enforced by an imprecation or two, sometimes made the fellows at the oars wince. His helm was a long oar, which he moved to either side of the stern as occasion required. The rest of our equipage was in a very simple, or rather in a very unworkmanlike style. The oars, which were just like our fire-shovels, with short handles, were passed through a noose of thong or rope, tied to a peg in the edge of the vessel, which noose, or which peg, or which said thong or rope, gave way about every quarter of an hour, another quarter being required for its restoration. We had three rowers, the excess of velocity at one side being corrected by the long oar of the patron at the stern.

We had not gone above two hundred yards from the place of embarkation when a man came running and shouting after us. We took no notice of him for a while, thinking that he must have been out of his senses, so furious were his gesticulations. At length, however, he made us understand that we had stolen one of his oars, and we were obliged to put in to shore to answer this charge. After a long controversy, if controversy that can be called in which our patron and his confederates and their accuser were all talking, scolding, and shouting together, we gave him up an old oar, which he took very discontentedly. About eight o'clock we were once more fairly on our way.

There being no sort of accommodation for passengers in our bark, I sat on my portmanteau; the Jew disposed of himself on a piece of carpet beside me, and in front of him the poet on the bare plank. A space near the prow was occupied by a woman and her two children. Much to my surprise, when we arrived in the middle of the river, and I began to hope our men were resolved to regain the time we had already lost, they deliberately took in their oars, and opening a wallet of bread, garlic, and cold fried fish, they proceeded to breakfast. The poet asked whether they had not performed that operation already, to which they replied that they had been disturbed at their morning meal, and that they must now finish it. Our precious bark was therefore left to make its own way down the river, a mode of travelling at all events possessed of the advantages of enabling us to observe at our leisure the scenery amidst which we entered.

At the entrance of the mountain gorge through which the Danube here finds its course, stand the ruins of Kolubatz, a pile of castles built on an almost inaccessible rock, which about a century ago were occupied by a band of Wallachian brigands, under the command of Borichour, a name still repeated with a traditional sort of terror, in all that neighbourhood. His depredations were carried on upon a princely scale, as he affected to consider himself the legitimate sovereign of the country around him, as far as he could reach without endangering the safety of his retreat to his own fortress, which he deemed impregnable. The fishermen tell numberless stories of this celebrated robber and of his banditti, who are said to have often fought against disciplined troops, five times their number, with invariable success. When once shut up within their drawbridge, they defied their enemies, however numerous these might be, for even if their castles had been all demolished, they had secret passages through the interior of their rock leading to caverns in the adjacent mountains, where they had

always ample store of provisions, and feared no pursuit. The ruins are highly picturesque, and by their formidable position give probability to the wildest tales that are related of Borichour and his Wallachians.

The Austrian guard-house on the opposite bank exhibited a miserable appearance, when compared with these remains of chivalry. It was built loosely of uncemented stones, with a wooden roof and even a wooden chimney. A sentinel was looking out lazily at the door, in front of which was a stand for arms. Near the house an angle of an old castle attests that that side of the river also had its fortress in former days, though not so extensive as Kolubatz.

As we proceeded through this romantic gorge, within which the Danube was pressed by mountains rising on each side to a considerable height, we heard repeated explosions, which we might easily have mistaken for discharges of artillery besieging a citadel. We soon observed, however, a number of men at work on the Hungarian bank, engaged in widening the carriage-road, and were informed that farther down the river it was necessary to blow up the rocks for that purpose. The echoes of these detonations, resounding among the mountains and along the waters, gave peculiar interest to the scene; they spoke of enterprise and industry well applied, and were the harbingers of national prosperity, civilizasion, and happiness.

I observed several caverns in our mountain banks as we went along, and was informed that some of the boldest rocks which shot up in the most fantastic peaks were all hollow inside, and occasionally inhabited by fishermen. In the days of brigandage they served as retreats for pirates, and all sorts of marauders, who rendered the passage of this part of the Danube an affair of no slight danger. Occasionally masses of rock appeared above our heads, depending for support on rude pillars, in which capitals wrought by the hand of Nature

might be descried. One immense buttress rose in the shape of a round tower, near the top of which a large cavern was visible, accessible by a gateway naturally arched in the Gothic style.

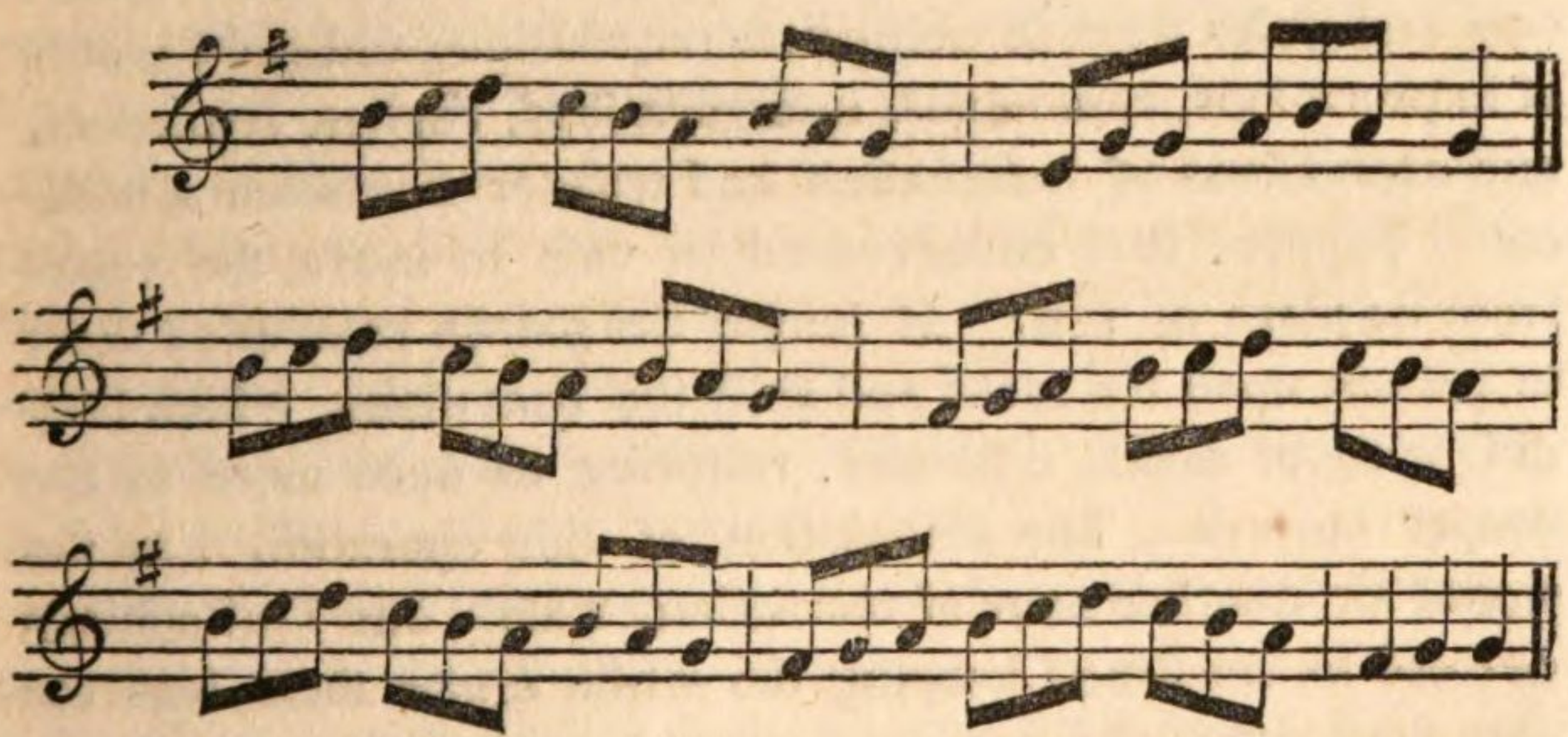
CHAPTER VII.

Pastoral scene—Echoes—Picture of laziness—Rapids of the Danube—Miller and his Men—Pedestrian Excursion—Wallachian Shepherdesses—Dancing Boors—Priest of the Parish—The Governor—George Dewar—Contest between the Priest and the Poet—Supper—Musical Treat—The Moldavian—Sketch of the Inn Room—Hospitable Invitation—Triple-bedded Room—Latin Harangue.

Still falling down with the stream, as our rowers had not yet finished their matin meal, we stole quietly along amid tremendous piles of rock, which rose higher and higher as we proceeded, sometimes barren of the slightest traces of vegetation, sometimes covered with brambles; the whole appearing as if they had been made the sport of more than one volcanic convulsion. A grassy glen opening on our right, exhibiting a clustre of elms, by which a Servian boy was tending his swine, offered an agreeable contrast to the frowning horrors around us. The eye ranged beyond the glen over a richly-wooded valley, opening far among the rocks, where a group of women seemed engaged in cooking by a fire, whose smoke curled upwards among the trees.

The pipe of the swineherd seemed to awaken the musical faculties of our boatmen, one of whom, a short thick-bodied Wallachian, wearing on his head a woolly sheepskin cap, might have been sketched as the very personification of indolence. His oar was as short as himself, and when he did per-

mit it to come in contact with the water, his whole object seemed to be to move it against the least possible quantum of resistance. When he sated his appetite for garlic and fish, and washed down those materials by a draught of some thin red wine, which he drank from a small wooden keg, instead of resuming his appointed labour he began to sing a Wallachian ballad, of which the following notes may, perhaps afford the musical reader some faint idea.



It was a wild and melancholy strain, sung with a strong nasal accent; and in the intervals between the verses, one of our Wallachians, a lathy, hardy, bareheaded youth, who seemed to have been just brought in from the woods, set up a shrill abrupt shout, which, from the effect of the echo, seemed in a little while after to be answered by some voice far away over the mountains.

When the process of eating had no longer any charms, and the attractions even of song ceased to captivate our boatmen, they deliberately went to sleep. As the morning was thus wearing fast away, while we made little progress, the poet and I took the oars, and rowed until we could hold out no longer. The narrow rocky gorge, through which we had been stealing our course for upwards of two hours, at length gradually

opened into a wider channel, hemmed in by irregular hills, thickly wooded with brambles. As the boat was still wandering down the current, our fellows all fast asleep, it landed somewhat roughly on a bed of rocks in the middle of the river. The patron awoke from his dreams in a violent rage, the fire glancing from his diminutive eyeball, as if we were all about to be lost in an inch or two of water!

The boatmen, when they were roused from slumber, seemed scarcely to know where they were, or what they were to do: oars and poles were in immediate requisition, and amid shouts of imprecations, commands, interrogations, replies, rejoinders, and expressions of indignation and wonder how such a thing could happen, they endeavoured in vain to move the vessel from its place of rest. At length the patron compelled them to get out upon the rocks and shift the boat along, which they did without much difficulty, restoring us once more to the deeper current. The completion of this operation was the signal for another hour of recreation, which our Wallachians devoted to smoking, keeping the while under their legs the oars high out of the water. I never beheld such a picture of laziness as that which these men presented. Our patron seemed to have the faculty of guiding the boat, though wrapped in profound sleep; and his companions, when they were not eating or drinking, were either sleeping, smoking, singing, or lounging, any thing save working, which they contrived, as much as they possibly could, to avoid.

So abrupt and frequent were the windings of the Danube, amid the beauteous hills which form its banks below the narrow gorge of rocks above described, that often, on looking back we saw no trace of the direction by which we had come; nor, on looking before us, could we discern by what course we were to proceed. We seemed to be shut in on all sides, as within a mountain lake, from which there was no apparent egress, until, by turning a little cape, we found ourselves in

another and another lake, in succession. We left this charming scenery behind us, on approaching the rapids of the Danube, where its bed is wholly composed of rough rocks, sometimes starting up in masses nearly to the surface of the river, sometimes forming a wall, running across from bank to bank, and producing a perceptible fall in the current. We were warned of the danger to be encountered on passing these rapids, by the hoarse murmur of the waters which we had heard at a distance. The obstacles which the river met in its course produced considerable undulations on its surface, amounting now and then to waves, on which our bark was hurried away, notwithstanding all the efforts of our rowers, and dashed against the rocks. Had our boat not been a very strong one, or had the impulse been somewhat stronger, we should probably have been wrecked among these rapids, owing chiefly to the unskilfulness of our people, as well as the ludicrous state of alarm in which their ignorance involved them.

The banks again assumed a wild rocky character, and approached so near each other, that, when the river is full, the volume of waters which rush through that space must be terrific. As it was, we were constantly rubbing on the bottom, and might have walked almost dry-footed on ledges which extended quite across the stream. The boat was literally carried over these ledges, as there was not water enough to float it. Our patron repeatedly told us that he, though seventy-three years old, had never known the Danube so low as it was upon that occasion. In the almost perpendicular wall which rose on our right, there was a singular *lusus naturæ* on a gigantic scale—it was the complete figure of a water-mill and mill-house petrified, and slightly crushed by an enormous rock which had fallen upon it from the higher precipices. The face of the superincumbent mass presented the figure of a monk preaching from a pulpit; and it only required the existence of a legend, to induce a superstitious mind to believe, that the "miller and his men" had been notorious criminals—that

the monk had come to reprove them—and that while he was still vainly exhorting them to repentance, the living scene was suddenly transformed into stone.

The whole of this narrow passage amongst the rocks was curious and highly romantic. A little beyond the petrified mill, on the opposite side, we beheld a perfect outline of an immense lion, couching; the head, the eyes, the mouth, and the paws, were as correctly delineated on the naked stone, as if they had been drawn by the hand of an artist. A cluster of rocks, somewhat further on, assumed all the appearance of the ruins of a cathedral, with its towers and ivied walls, and Gothic windows and gates. The effect of this pile was remarkably picturesque, as it rose on an eminence above a mass of green foliage, which seemed to conceal the lower parts of the cathedral.

The day was now far advanced, and as we lost all hope of reaching Orsova that evening, and the further navigation of the rapids became tedious and disagreeable, I proposed that we should put into what is here generally considered the Wallachian shore; though, on the maps, it is all Hungarian as far as Orsova. The inhabitants differ in no respect from those of Wallachia; they speak the Wallachian language, wear the Wallachian costume, and, though under the dominion of Austria, look upon the people of the neighbouring province as of their own kindred. The Jew and the poet readily complied with my suggestion, and the country becoming quite level as soon as we emerged from the last rocky gorge, we directed our helmsman to steer for the left bank, where we landed, with a view of walking on to the village of Swinich, at a distance of about ten miles, where we were to stop for the night.

As we proceeded on our pedestrian journey, we met occasionally Wallachian shepherdesses, driving before them goats and sheep. They had uniformly distaffs in their hands, from which they actively spun the wool round the spindle as they walked along. They were all barefooted; and, over a canvass petticoat and chemise, usually wore a stripe of plaid in front

and another at the back, with long worsted tassels hanging beneath. The hair was carefully braided round the head, and sometimes fell in long plats on the shoulders. Those of the shepherdesses who were mothers carried their infants in small cradles made of hoops, which were suspended by a cord round the neck. When the baby was to be nursed, the cradle was borne in front; when the little innocent was asleep, the cot was placed at the mother's back, who then resumed her distaff and spindle.

I was amused by the vigilance with which the shepherdesses, who were generally fine strong-looking young women, with a bland expression of countenance, avoided touching even with the hem of their garments any of our party. Seeing the Jew in the turban and pelisse, they assumed that we had unlawfully crossed the river from the opposite shore, and that they would catch the plague if by any misfortune they had come in contact with us. Whenever we approached them, therefore, on the narrow paths, they scampered off into the adjacent fields until we passed, as if we had been objects of terror. I once unwittingly lifted up the coverlet of a little crib, which I found on the ground, to peep at the cherub that was nestled beneath it, when the mother ran up breathless, and hurried away with her burden, as if she imagined that I had intended to make a victim of her offspring.

In the midst of this pastoral scene the sounds of a violin reached our ears, accompanied by shouts of people dancing. On reaching a clump of trees we found a rude hut, occupied by a number of the labourers who were engaged in the works going on upon the bank of the Danube. A large fire was blazing before the hut, at which some of the men were engaged in roasting kid and frying fish, and stewing vegetables, while others were dancing to the notes of a fiddle, played by a savage-looking fellow who was elevated on a chair. They seemed to have abundance of wine, and they invited us to

partake of their fare as well as of their amusement, with a rough hospitality. The Jew, however, as well as the poet, urged me with certain shrugs and looks to hasten on; as much as to say, that our new acquaintances were no better than they should be. I must say, that when we walked off, some of them did gaze after us with a peculiar expression of countenance, indicating something like regret that they had not inquired into the state of our finances.

Having walked above three hours, we arrived about seven o'clock in the evening at Swinich, a wretched-looking village, composed of a dozen or two of huts built in the most primitive style. A flight of ruinous stone steps led to what I must call, for want of a more appropriate name, the *auberge* of the village, where I found several motley groups of people assembled. In the principal apartment were two large beds, a few rush-bottomed chairs and wooden stools, a stone stove, and a table placed near the wall, over which were suspended wax images and little gaudy daubs of the virgin, the crucifixion, and some of the saints. The governor of the village, dressed in his blue uniform, was seated at one end of the table drinking wine, which, from its colour as well as its taste, I should have called cider.

The Greek priest of the parish, Gregory Georgovitch by name, was stationed at the other end, drinking from a small bottle, without the interposition of a glass, a weak pale spirit, called in that country sleigovitch. The governor was a short decent-looking kind of a person, a picture of good nature, degenerating almost into simplicity, with a spice of vanity not altogether unbecoming in the "great man" of the village. The priest had the advantage of the governor in stature, rivalled him in good humour, and seemed excessively anxious to show himself greatly superior to his companion in intelligence. For the usual sacerdotal hat he substituted a small cloth cap, his beard was of the ordinary dignified dimensions, and his

dress consisted of a large white figured waistcoat, loose nankeen trousers, over which his boots were drawn, and a short mantle. His shirt collar was open, *à la Byron*.

The remainder of the company in this "double-bedded" room consisted of the overseer of the works going on upon the Danube, the captain of the patrol which formed the police of the country, an officer of the quarantine, an officer of the customs, a nondescript with silly face, a little girl, and two or three urchins with whom she was playing. The priest seemed to have all the talk to himself. No subject was started in which he did not take the lead, and with which sooner or later he did not contrive to mix up a quotation in bad Latin from a favourite theological author, probably the only author in that way with whose works he had ever made himself acquainted. He spoke fluently, with an air of self-complacency, but at the same time in a tone of kindness and hilarity quite patriarchal. Nothing in this world seemed to afford the governor so much delight as either to put down the priest in argument, or to witness that operation executed by another; all, however, for the sake of amusement. He would sometimes, in the course of an attack upon the clergyman's positions, work himself up into a simulated passion, until the latter was provoked into a real one; and then, to the great entertainment of his *official* friends, he would suddenly resume his good-humoured smile, disconcerting all the angry eloquence of his antagonist.

I was initiated in the characters and habits of these "village politicians" by an Englishman named George Dewar, who made his appearance in the room soon after I entered it: he had been already apprized, at the other extremity of Swinich, that a countryman of his had arrived at the *auberge*, and it was so long, he said, since he had heard his own language spoken, that he came instantly to see me. Dewar was a very intelligent though humble adventurer in the engineering line, who had managed the diving-bell which was employed in recover-

ing the treasure sunk near the Mexican coast, in consequence of the wreck of the *Thetis*, a few years ago. He had performed his duties so much to the satisfaction of his employers on that occasion, that after having been rated as an able seaman, he was strongly recommended to the Count Szechenyi Istvan, when that nobleman was in London, as a very useful assistant, as well for superintending the construction of roads, as for working the diving-bell in making excavations which were intended to be executed in the rocky parts of the bed of the Danube, with a view to remove the obstacles that at present interrupt its entire navigation by steam-boats. Dewar was delighted to see me—the sound of my "How do you do?" filled his eyes with tears, it appearing that I was the first Englishman whom he had met so far down the Danube, where he had been employed for nearly a twelvemonth.

The poet now joined the circle, and having ordered his bottle of wine, made himself as much at home amongst his new acquaintances as if he had known them a hundred years. He treated the company to a history of his travels, which he extended on this occasion to Grand Cairo. His audience seemed at a loss to know where Grand Cairo was, until the priest enlightened them by declaring that it was in Asia. "In Asia," exclaimed the Moldavian with indescribable disdain; "no such thing: Grand Cairo is in Africa." The governor was in raptures at this decided triumph over the clergyman, who, in order to restore his character, inveigled the poet into a theological controversy. But, to my surprise, and to the great chagrin of the priest and the boundless joy of the governor, the Moldavian proved himself quite as well read in theology as he was in geography; he repeatedly convicted the priest of entire ignorance of the works with which he had pretended to be most familiar, and so merciless was he in following up his conquest, by challenging the divine on the more abstruse points of doctrine, that the latter literally felt obliged to decamp from the field. The governor shouted with excessive

mirth, and ordered another bottle, which he compelled the poet to drink in addition to his own.

While this entertainment was going on, there came into the room a pretty young woman, who seemed to be well known to all the party present. The nondescript above-mentioned turned out to be her husband, and Dewar being her lodger, she had come to announce to them that their supper was ready. Both appeared unwilling to go: it having been, however, conceded on her part that they might return after supper, if they liked, the three took their departure; but not before the governor exacted from the lady a promise that she also would make her appearance again, and bring with her her guitar. In the mean time I profited of the suggestion which the idea of supper prompted to my mind, and laid waste a dish of stewed chicken. The wine, being, to me at least, undrinkable, I was obliged to have recourse to sleigovitch and water.

In less than half an hour the lady, the guitar, and her friends, rejoined our circle, followed by the priest, who, notwithstanding his discomfiture, could not prevail on himself to stay away, and by two or three very fine young men, whom I had not seen before. The instrument having been tuned, our poet asked permission to look at it, and swept his mutilated fingers over the strings with the skill of a professor. The priest looked amazed. After preluding in a singularly graceful manner, which captivated the Swinichæans, the tatterdemalion, clearing his voice with a fresh bottle of wine, which was voted to him by common accord, treated us to "Di tanti palpiti," not only with great taste, but in one of the best tenor voices I ever heard. The priest exclaimed that he knew not what to think of this fellow, unless he was the devil, for that not only were his talents and knowledge universal, but of a degree of excellence in every thing that left him without a rival.

The lady was quite ashamed to touch the guitar after the poet; nevertheless she was induced to favour the company

with two or three Wallachian songs, which, after the splendid performances which we had just heard, lost all the effect they might otherwise have produced. One of the young men, jealous of the musical character of Swinich, next took up the guitar, but after vexing the chords with a long series of humdrum tinklings, which he would fain persuade us were Servian melodies, he was reluctantly compelled, by the unanimous voice of the company, to resign the instrument to our Mephistopheles, who showed himself, still more even than before, a perfect master of the art, and that too of the very best school. Italian, German, Hungarian, and Moldavian airs followed each other in rapid succession, and in the most admirable style. The fair owner of the guitar remarked, with a charming simplicity, that she really did not know her own instrument in the hands of this enchanter.

By this time our apartment was crowded. The door had been thrown open, and was besieged by a numerous group of savage-looking figures, wrapped in their cloaks and large hats, who stood staring in upon our musician, as if they fully participated in the priest's opinion of his unearthly character. And in truth, when I looked at this Moldavian—remembered how he had amused his companions on the deck of the steamer by his anecdotes, his poetry, and his dramatic declamations; the variety of information which he afforded to myself during the course of the day; his undoubted acquaintance with many countries, though he sometimes indulged in exaggeration on that subject; the wandering life he had led; the offices, sometimes of trust, and responsibility, and peril, which he had fulfilled; his various acquirements in science, history, and the fine arts; and, to crown all, his musical powers, which were of the very first order; and his ragged, unshaven, filthy appearance—I could not help feeling that there was a mystery about him, such as perhaps in a former age might have procured for him the dangerous honours of a magician.

The scene to which I had been thus suddenly transferred from our fishing-boat was altogether so strange and picturesque, that I much regretted my inability to preserve it in the form of a sketch. It would have been a congenial study for Wilkie.—The loosely-boarded floor over our heads, with its rude joists; the ladder for ascending to it in the corner, on which four or five chubby wondering urchins were perched; the whitewashed walls; the two immense beds; the waxen images, and the daubs of sacred subjects; the cherry-tree square table, the lamp burning upon it amidst numerous bottles and glasses; the good-humoured, half-simpleton governor; the pompous captain; the shrimp who ruled the quarantine; the toad of the custom-house, who, whenever the governor laughed, always laughed still louder; the patriarchal-looking priest; the gentle proprietress of the guitar, her English lodger, and her unmeaning husband, who looked upon her as the paragon of perfection; the three stars of Swinich, as those young men were called, because they knew Latin; and then our Moldavian sorcerer, who, while he held the guitar, presented in his own person so inexplicable a combination of intellectual affluence with the most sordid external poverty; together with the bandit-looking group looking in at the door—furnished a picture of rustic life on the Danube, to which the pencil of Wilkie alone could have done justice.

I had engaged one of the two beds for the night, but as Dewar's landlady was the "lady patroness" of the village, and I for the moment a person of no small distinction, an Englishman being looked upon as a kind of god throughout all that country, she would not hear of my remaining at the inn: she had, in fact, already prepared her own bed for me, as Dewar laughingly said, and as a point of honour I could not refuse her hospitality. As soon as our circle broke up, therefore, I proceeded with my hostess and her husband, my countryman, and one of the three "stars," who happened to be her nephew, to her mansion. Ascending a large wooden

portico by a ladder, we all entered the bedchamber together, without any ceremony: it was in fact the only room in the house, and served equally as kitchen, dining-room, drawing-room, lumber-room, and dormitory. It had the invaluable recommendation of cleanliness, notwithstanding the variety of uses to which it was convertible; and the bed, moreover, to which I was most graciously conducted, exhibited a variegated quilt, the work of the lady's own hands, and a pair of sheets fragrant as thyme, and white as the falling snow.

As the night was cold I spread my cloak on the bed, but my hostess, after seeking an explanation from Dewar of this precaution on my part, which she felt as a kind of reflection on her household propriety, went to a handsome wardrobe, which stood at one end of the room, from whose ample stores she drew forth a new blanket, the produce, also, of her own industry, and substituted it for my cloak, which she folded up and put by on a chair. In addition to the bed assigned to me there were two others in the apartment, one large enough to accommodate at least half-a-dozen men, and a small temporary pallet, which the presiding genius of the place had arranged on chairs for her own use.

I was very well inclined to form a more intimate acquaintance with my neat nocturnal repository, the more especially as I had not enjoyed such a luxury for a whole week; but unfortunately my landlady's learned nephew conceived, that it was his duty to entertain me with a long harangue in Latin upon the various branches of knowledge of which he was master, interspersing the more abstruse parts of his oration with Hungarian songs, accompanied by himself on the guitar. I, of course, listened to his address with all the gravity I could command, until taking advantage of a momentary absence of our hostess, I slipped quietly into bed. My friend had by that time arrived at the botanical department of his lecture, which completely closed the curtains of my memory for the night.

CHAPTER VIII.

Domestic arrangements—Count Szechenyi—Milanosch—Works on the Danube—Picture of industry—Auberge—Rocky scenery Veterani's cave—Arrival at Orsova—My chamber and its ornaments—Bedroom utensils—Hungarian civilization—Quarantine adventure—Dinner at Count Szechenyi's—Plans for the navigation of the Danube—Origin of the enterprize.

By seven o'clock on the following morning (October 1), I beheld the three male members of the family emerging from their spacious couch, while our hostess was busily engaged in preparing coffee for breakfast. My toilet was speedily despatched, and a loaf of capital brown bread, a brace of new laid eggs, and a bowl of coffee, pretty well prepared me for the toils of the coming day. Dewar had begun to teach his kind landlady English. She was already as far advanced as "Good morning;" but, by some fatality or another, she constantly metamorphosed "Mr. Dewar," into "My Dear;" which had a droll effect, especially in the presence of her good-natured husband, who was as ignorant of the meaning of the expression as herself. The reader must not draw any scandalous conclusion from this habitual mistake, for Dewar, a very honest and honourable fellow in his way, assured me that his pupil was, in every sense of the word, a pattern of domestic virtue. He added, that it was the general custom throughout that part of the country, to have only one sleeping-room for all the family, as well as their guests; and that this apparent laxity of discipline, caused by the necessity of the case, produced a sort of chivalrous feeling, which condemned to infamy any person guilty of the slightest disrespect towards the conjugal relations. He seemed strongly attached, not only to the family with which he resided, but to the people in general amongst whom he was pursuing his avocations; he had never

experienced so much friendship, he said, in any part of the world, as they showed him on every possible occasion; and nothing, he added, but the pleasure which he derived from that circumstance, could have induced him to remain where he was.

Dewar spoke also of the Count Szechenyi in the most enthusiastic terms, describing him as a Hungarian magnate of ample fortune, who devoted himself exclusively to the regeneration of his country. It was with the sole view of collecting information, which he might afterwards apply to her benefit, that he had frequently visited England, France, and other parts of Europe. He was in the bloom of life; had served in the army; was a leading member of the diet, over which his talents, his superior acquirements, and his disinterested patriotism, gave him great influence; was constantly occupied in designing plans for the welfare of Hungary; remained a bachelor, in order that he might be more at liberty to travel about for the purpose of carrying those plans into execution; and was now actively engaged in superintending the works going on upon the Danube, which were entirely the result of his public spirit, and his indefatigable perseverance. I was delighted to hear that I should probably meet the Count at Orsova, where he possessed a temporary residence.

The boat, which had arrived in due time at Swinich, having been announced as ready for departure, I walked down towards the river-side, after making, through "My Dear," a small present to our amiable hostess. But I had not proceeded many steps, when I was joined by her ladyship, dressed out in her holiday costume, including a gay silk cloak, after the London fashion, accompanied by her husband and her nephew, also in their best attire. They could not think, Dewar said, of allowing me to embark without accompanying me to the latest moment; and so we all proceeded together through the village. I was touched by their kind attentions, and felt that if I were a little longer among this simple-hearted affectionate

people, like Dewar, I should have cordially esteemed them. Our boat put away amidst their repeated adieus; Dewar looked quite downcast: nor did they quit the river-side as long as they could see my bark, which a bend in the river at length shut out from their view.

It was a louring morning; but the neighbouring hills lifting their green heads above the surrounding vapours seemed to promise a fine day. The new Servian village of Milanosch, on the right bank, nearly opposite to Swinich, looked picturesque through the veil of clouds in which it was arrayed. A rock on our left, that jutted boldly into the river, was crowned by the ruins of three massive round towers, which presented a striking resemblance to as many enormous sacks of corn. The Danube still preserved its course between ranges of lofty hills, wooded, and piled behind each other; some hooded in mist; while the summits and slopes of the higher ridges shone out in the beams of the morning sun. As we advanced, the green hills yielded to lofty and precipitous rocks, which rose from the waterside in a perpendicular direction, sometimes like ramparts, sometimes like huge columns of Cyclopæan construction. Labourers were busily employed in blowing up these masses, whose detonations resounded far and wide among the mountains.

Being desirous of witnessing more closely the mode in which the men carried on their operations, I directed our patron to put me ashore, where all seemed animation and industry. The noise of the mallet and punch, the pickaxe and chisel, was heard in all directions. Where the rock was perpendicular to the river, a roadway was excavated through it only to the height of eighteen or twenty feet, leaving the upper strata undisturbed. I confess I did not enter some of these causeways, magnificent though they were, without feeling that if any of the tremendous piles, which rose in most irregular array above my head, had been loosened by the explosions going on on all sides, and had obeyed a locomotive fancy, I

might have been reduced to powder with the greatest possible expedition. Where the face of the rock slanted rapidly from the river, the labour of excavation was comparatively limited. Across those occasional ravines which sunk beneath the general level of the road, bridges or terraces were erected in a solid, and, at the same time, an ornamental style, which reminded me of old Roman enterprize.

A whole village of wooden huts occupied a glen, in which the families of the artisans and workmen, and the officers superintending the operations on the part of the Austrian government, were located. Every body seemed employed—washing, drying linen, spinning wool, weaving, preparing meat, fowls, vegetables, for dinner, baking bread, scouring furniture, or building additional habitations. I was delighted by this lively picture of industry, so little resembling any thing I had seen since my departure from Vienna. An immense eagle, which had been shot the day before, was displayed upon a post, with his wings extended, measuring, from tip to tip, full seven feet. Two other eagles were on a perch, to which they were chained. One of these, expanding his noble wings, looked up wistfully and proudly at the mountains above him, as if to say, "There is my native and proper home—behold, I have the means of ascending thither, but am, without any crime, detained here a prisoner." They were truly regal birds. I should have very much preferred to have seen them soaring in the clouds; never, I think, having felt before with so much acuteness the extent of that injustice of which men are guilty, when they destroy or fetter, without any useful purpose, the most beautiful specimens of creation.

One of the Austrian officers, who spoke French, very civilly conducted me over the works, and introduced me to the auberge of the colony, which occupied a large natural cavern in the rock. The roof of the cave was curiously composed of several slabs which met in the centre, springing, like the parts of an artificial arch, from the circumference. This solid con-

struction seemed absolutely necessary to sustain the pile of rocks, which, above the cavern, towered into the heavens, tossed into all sorts of fantastic shapes, and threatening every moment to overwhelm the busy people at their feet, who, as compared with them, looked like so many insects.

The masses on the opposite side of the river seemed to have been thrown into similar confusion, some shooting upwards as straight as an arrow, some in a sloping, others in a horizontal direction. Wherever I looked around me, it appeared as if I had found a mystic portion of the globe, which, like the face of Satan, "deep scars of thunder had intrenched;" where Chaos still held her reign, and none save the Titans of elder time could hope to dwell in security. But my terrors were reproved by some young saplings which burst forth from amidst the rocks, spreading their graceful branches in the air. Here and there a wild flower, too, displayed its blue or coral bell; the bee murmured quietly along, the sparrow twittered, the yellow butterfly wandered about, and the spider floated by in his gossamer balloon.

By this time my Moldavian and Servian friends joined me, and pointed out a path by the river-side leading to a very remarkable cave, which is said to have been converted into a fortification by the Austrian general Veterani, during the war in the latter part of the seventeenth century against the Turks. He greatly enlarged the original cavern, which was a natural one, by burning the stone and then throwing water upon it, when it easily came away as lime. The cavity was divided into several apartments, one of which was the general's room, another the powder-magazine, a third was for provisions, and a fourth ample enough to afford accommodation to at least a thousand men. The ruins still remain of the redoubts which had been thrown up in front of this cavern. We found several names of the brave soldiers who had occupied this singular garrison, cut in the walls of the cavern inside; among them that of the chivalrous Veterani himself, who is said to have

sustained his position in the presence of a whole host of artillery brought to bear against him from the opposite bank of the Danube. While we were within the cavern, a series of explosions followed each other in rapid and regular order, so strongly resembling the fire of contending armies, that one might without any difficulty have imagined that the war between the crescent and the cross had not yet concluded.

Count Veterani was an Italian by birth, and as valiant a soldier as ever drew a sword. When Segedin was besieged in 1686 by the Imperialists, intelligence reached the camp that two thousand Turks and a considerable body of Tartars were marching to raise the siege, or to force succours into the town. Six regiments of horse and foot, with some Croats, and a regiment of dragoons, were immediately despatched, under the command of Veterani, to oppose their progress. He marched all night, and having arrived at break of day within sight of the enemy, he attacked them at once with great resolution, killed great numbers in their tents, and took four or five thousand of their horses, with all their baggage.

This action was scarcely over when the count observed a great number of Turks passing a bridge, which they had laid over the Danube. They were said to have amounted to twelve thousand men, and to have been commanded by the grand vizier. "The action," says Sir Paul Rycaut, "was so bravely performed, that the vanguard of the Turks was beaten, and forced to retreat to a place where their infantry lay under covert, supported by six hundred Janissaries, with thirty field pieces, which were discharged with terrible fire and smoke upon their enemies. But the Christians having received their fire with undaunted constancy and courage, they assailed the Turks and Tartars with such bravery that they put them to flight. In this last encounter above three hundred Janissaries were killed upon the spot, all their artillery and baggage taken, with their timbrels, which they sound before the pashas, and

many colours, together with five hundred horse, and two thousand beasts of burden, laden with baggage and provisions; and all this, on the Christian side, with the loss only of a hundred foot soldiers and about fifty horsemen. After which, Veterani returned to the camp, where *Te Deum* was sung."

It was some years after this signal action (1695), that the Imperialists marched to meet the Turks, who had proceeded towards Transylvania, and had taken Lippa, on the Maros, by storm. Veterani was at this time encamped in Transylvania, having under his command about six thousand five hundred men. He was attacked by the whole Turkish army, consisting of nearly sixty thousand men; scarcely one of his men survived to tell the story of his defeat; he was himself shot through the body with a musket-bullet, his head having been at the same time laid open with a scimitar.

Returning to our bark, we still moved on amidst scenery of the most magnificent character, formed by gigantic rocks disposed in the most irregular manner, exhibiting an infinite variety of shapes, strange and sometimes terrific in their appearance, such as might meetly combine for the creation of a region of enchantment. On the summit of one of these craggy mountains an immense isolated pile, bleached by the winds and rains of many a winter, looked precisely like a Druidical chapel. The dry bed of a torrent led from the river-side along the heights towards the temple, and groups of hooded pilgrims were seen winding their way upwards at each side of the channel in regular procession, while here and there scattered figures were emerging from among green shrubs, bound for the same destination. But the penitents all seemed as if they had been miraculously petrified in the midst of the solemnities in which they were engaged.

About three o'clock in the afternoon we reluctantly bade adieu to these magical regions of the Danube, and came in sight of Orsova, which, with its neat white houses, its church and spire, looked extremely well at a distance. Several Ser-

vian fishing-boats were moored near the opposite bank. On landing at Orsova we were met by Mr. Popovicz, the agent of the Steam Navigation Company, and four or five gentlemen, amongst whom I soon distinguished, from the respect that was paid to him, the Count Szechenyi. He very kindly inquired of me, in excellent English, what sort of a voyage we had had; adding, that he feared it must have been an unpleasant one in many respects. I frankly answered that I had not found it at all so. Although we had certainly been detained beyond our time, nevertheless I had been prepared, in truth, considering the novelty and difficulties of the enterprize, for much greater inconvenience than I had actually met with. The Count seemed much gratified that I had made allowance for the incompleteness of the undertaking, and engaged me to dine with him on the following day at two o'clock, after which, he said, he would take me in his carriage to Gladova, where the steam-boat of the lower Danube was waiting. He added, that it was his intention to proceed as far as Rutchstuk, and that he would be happy to have my company on the voyage. As the Count, with his friends, was stepping into a boat to cross the river, in order to pay his respects to Prince Milosch, the Prince of Servia, who was expected to arrive in the course of the evening at the opposite village (also called Orsova), he directed his groom, who spoke English, to see me to the inn, and to take care that I should be well attended to in every respect.

It will be easily believed that these very friendly attentions on the part of an individual whom I had never seen before made a strong impression on my feelings; the more especially as the sincere and cordial tone in which the Count expressed himself was rendered still more engaging by that perfect simplicity of manner, which bespeaks at once the man of the world. The hotel to which his servant conducted me was a very decent one. I dined satisfactorily on stewed fowl, a favourite dish it seems in that country, and although my room

was quite primeval in its appearance and furniture, my bed was unobjectionable.

Early the next morning (October 2), the Count sent to inform me that, as the carriages and other portions of the steamboat cargo destined for the lower towns on the Danube had not yet arrived from Moldava, we should not quit Orsova till the following day. I had therefore ample time to survey my new "domain." My chamber consisted of four very plain whitewashed walls, on the ground-floor, looking through a window which could boast neither of curtain, blind, nor shutter, into a large court-yard at the back of the inn. The floor was of deal plank, loosely put together, and unhonoured by rug, mat, or carpet of any description. A looking-glass, hoary with age and cobwebbed, was suspended in the old-fashioned slanting position, between two coloured old Jack Tar prints of Juno in her car, drawn by swans, with a rainbow in the distance, and of Cybele in her chariot, to which a lion and a panther were yoked. Beneath the wheels a rabbit, a rat, and a mouse were gambolling; and behind her a great camel was star-gazing. Her ladyship was about to drive over a pyramid. An old-fashioned German stove, a large deal square table, three leather-cushioned chairs, the backs and seats of which were bound together by great bands of iron, a rough square washhand-stand, in which there was a baking dish for a bason, completed the decorations. The door was large enough in every way to admit a horse, and the planks of which it was composed appeared so hostile to any thing like coalition, that the daylight played through every part of it.

I asked for some warm water to shave with. The waiter brought it to me *in a dinner-plate!* I could not help laughing at this extraordinary novelty, and he then brought me the kettle. I compromised the matter at last for a tumbler, which was rather an improvement on the steam-boat, where I never could succeed in getting hot water except in a teapot.

This reminds me of an anecdote which the Count tells with

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the most ludicrous effect, as a proof of the barbarism in which his country is yet enveloped. An old lady, a friend of his, received a present of porcelain from England, including cups, saucers, plates, dishes, and basins of every kind, among the rest a bidet. When the latter article was examined, nobody belonging to her household could at all make out for what purpose it was destined; but as it was a handsome piece of manufacture they were resolved that it should not be thrown by in a corner. One day the good dame invited, as the custom is in Hungary, a very large party to dinner, at which the Count and some other noblemen who had visited foreign countries were present. To the ordinary luxuries of the table was added a roast pig, which, to the great amusement of the civilized part of the company, was served up in the bidet!

After breakfasting on coffee and some remarkably fine grapes, I walked out to explore the beauties of Orsova, and as, fate would have it, my steps were in the first instance directed to the mart, where, under a shed divided by a partition breast-high, the business of traffic was carried on between the Hungarians and the Servians, neither being allowed by the laws of quarantine to come in contact with the other. Even the money which passed from the Servian side was taken in a pair of tongs and steeped in a cup of vinegar before it reached a Hungarian pocket. From the mart I passed on, apparently without having attracted the attention of the guard, but when I had gone to a distance of about five hundred yards, walking along the bank of the Danube, a soldier, armed with his fire-lock with fixed bayonet, was despatched after me. Assuming, for what reason I know not, that I had belonged to the Servian party, he ordered me back, keeping, however, as wide as possible of his game. I went up to inquire the reason of his interference with my perambulations, but he pointed his bayonet in a way not to be mistaken, which only augmented my surprise. Upon returning to the guard-house, my new friend, assisted by his officer, endeavoured to make me under-

stand that I must take my place among the Servians, whereupon the Jew, who happened to come into the mart, explained their error, and I acquired my liberty. Had they succeeded by their blundering in compelling me to pass the quarantine boundary, I should have had to spend ten days in the Lazaretto at Orsova before I could proceed further on my journey.

At two o'clock I went to dine with the Count. A rude sort of gate opened to a court-yard, through which I passed to a staircase, or rather a wide step-ladder, and so on to a gallery leading to a suite of rooms genteelly furnished. On the table in the Count's sitting-apartment, I recognised as old friends the *Edinburgh* and *Quarterly Reviews*, several of our "Annuals," and other English and French periodical publications. Besides the Count, a Hungarian magnate of considerable property was present, who coincides in most of the prudent views which the Count entertains with reference to the civilization of Hungary. Mr. Popovicz was also of the party, as well as a sensible young barrister from Pesth, named Tasner, who accompanied the Count as his secretary. We had an excellent dinner of vermicelli soup, boulli, haricot mutton, beef ragout, roast fowl, and pudding, followed by a dessert of sweet cake and grapes. The wines were champagne and the ordinary white vintage of the country, the best I had yet tasted in Hungary. Our conversation at dinner turned chiefly on the enterprise in which the Count was engaged, and in which all his faculties seemed to have been absorbed.

I collected from what was said that it was intended to construct a road wide enough for carriages along the whole of the left bank of the Danube, and that canals were to be formed parallel to the rapids and other rocky passages, where the river was liable to be reduced much below its ordinary level during the summer and autumn. These works necessarily required a large expenditure, which the returns of the Steam Navigation Company were not expected to repay. The Austrian government, therefore, actuated by an impulse of

public spirit which it too rarely acknowledges on other subjects, has taken upon itself the entire outlay which these undertakings will require, and has, moreover, with peculiar propriety, intrusted to Count Szechenyi the superintendence of the whole, as well as an unlimited supply of funds, for which he accounts directly to the Emperor. It is especially understood that a certain per-centage is secured by the Austrian government to the Navigation Company upon its capital, provided the returns should fall below a stated amount: in point of fact, the returns have for some time exceeded the amount agreed upon, so that the government is not likely to have any further responsibility in that respect.

The enterprise was originated by the Count, who, at an early period of his life (he is at present about forty-four years of age), plainly perceived the great advantages that would accrue to Hungary, if the Danube were rendered navigable for steam-boats to the Black Sea. Adopting the English system for procuring a large capital in small shares, he formed a list of subscribers at Presburg, consisting of magnates, members of the lower chamber of the diet, bankers, and merchants, which he brought over to this country. Here, also, he obtained a few distinguished names, and made himself master of all the details of steam navigation. Having ordered the engines for three boats to be sent from Birmingham to Trieste, he had the vessels built in that port, and then a petition was presented to the diet, on behalf of the subscribers, praying its sanction to the undertaking. This was the first instance in which the diet was called upon to take into its consideration a measure peculiar to Hungary in its national character, and involving, therefore, consequences of a vast political as well as commercial tendency. If the diet took this enterprise under its auspices, the popularity and the sense of independence which the assembly would thus acquire, might lead to other measures still more conducive to the re-establishment of the Hungarian nation. Prince Metternich immediately sent for Count Sze-

chenyi, whose brother is married to a sister of the prince's wife, and sought explanations of this treasonable proceeding! The Count's answer was very simple and unequivocal:—"If you have no wish that the diet should adopt the petition and act upon it, do the thing yourselves, for the Danube at all events cannot be long without steam-boats." The hint was taken; the petition was cushioned; the plans of the Count were not only accepted but improved upon a most magnificent scale, and given back to himself for execution. The Count is the most distinguished leader of the opposition party in the diet; but he took care to have it thoroughly understood that, though for the benefit of Hungary he charged himself with the commission offered to him by Prince Metternich, he was still free to follow up his political principles in every way that he thought advantageous to his country.

CHAPTER IX.

Hungarian Reforms—Security of Property—Orders of Nobility—Advantages of Steam Navigation—Reformers—Auxiliary Improvements—Club-house—Newspaper—System of Entails—Censorship.

After coffee we rose from the table, and the Count and I walked to the Lazaretto, a clean airy building, about a mile from Orsova. As he was about to go to Bucharest, and on his return from Wallachia would be obliged to perform quarantine in that edifice, he was desirous of examining the apartments which he was destined to occupy. We found the establishment in excellent order, clean, healthy, and very pleasantly situated. The wife of its medical superintendent was one of the most beautiful women I had ever beheld. She was sitting alone at a window, melancholy as if she were a captive; and indeed, as she observed to the Count, how could she be otherwise, exiled as she was in this solitude from every

chance of society? She was pale and downcast; her voice came in touching tones from her heart; and though she brightened up a little while we were speaking to her at the casement, the unusual lustre of her black eyes indicated that her health was deeply undermined by consumption. She spoke French very well, and the Count informed me that she was an intelligent and accomplished woman, but that the solitude of the place had broken down her spirits.

In the course of my stay at Orsova I had an opportunity of hearing from three or four Hungarian noblemen, who were passing through on their way to Pesth, that opinions differ very much with respect to the propriety of giving education at present to the people, because, as the country is still and must be for some years under the feudal system, if the people were educated, they would see too plainly the position in which they are placed, and would most probably seek to attain their liberties by means of a sudden and sanguinary revolution. There is no objection to their being properly educated as soon as they are fit for that stage of improvement, and other things are brought up to its level. But it would be necessary first to give knowledge to the nobles, with a view to liberalize their minds, and through their instrumentality to bring about gradually and safely the changes which may be deemed essential to the welfare of the whole community.

In the next place, the reformers are anxious to see security given to the titles of those who acquire property by purchase. As the law now stands, or rather in the absence of all law, if an individual buy an estate, he may possess it for twenty years, and then somebody comes with an old piece of parchment in his hand, who says that he has a better right to the estate than the purchaser. Litigation immediately commences —the suit goes on in the courts for years—and both parties probably spend twice the value of the property in law proceedings before the right of ownership is decided. Again, when an estate is announced for sale, the next neighbour has

a privilege of pre-emption. If the property be purchased by another person, and it be discovered after a lapse of thirty or even forty years, that the slightest formality was omitted, in giving the next neighbour notice of the intended sale, the privilege of pre-emption still remains, and he may buy the land, together with all the improvements bestowed upon it in the mean time, for the price which the occupant had paid. This uncertainty about titles to property is one of the greatest grievances of which Hungary has to complain.

The orders of the nobility also require limitation. At present the classes of nobles are too numerous, and are becoming more so every day; for, if a nobleman have fifty sons, they are all as noble as himself. In some few of the higher families distinguished as magnates, *majorats* are established by prescription. Some families have as many as three or four estates entailed upon each of the sons, and by this system their paramount rank and influence has been sustained. But, generally speaking, the estate of a nobleman of the second and inferior classes is divided, upon his death, amongst all his sons; the result of which division is to produce a swarm of pauper nobles, by whom the country is literally infested. This indiscriminate descent of title and perpetual subdivision of property, if not corrected in time, must eventually throw the whole fabric of society into confusion; or rather, they must prevent that fabric from ever being settled upon a safe foundation. These two evils cry aloud for amendment.

Another very serious grievance is, that the laws and law proceedings are all framed in the Latin language, which prevents the language of Hungary, in itself a copious and most expressive dialect, from acquiring all the perfection of which it is susceptible. Some years ago the members of the diet all spoke in Latin. Count Szechenyi was the first to address the assembly in Hungarian, and most of the better-informed magnates have since followed his example.

Hungary will undoubtedly derive great commercial advan-

tages from the steam navigation of the Danube; but, although enlightened men are not indifferent to that result, yet they look upon the enterprise rather with the hope of seeing their country derive from it a European position. When the people come more in contact with foreign nations, their emulation will be naturally excited; they will be induced to improve their roads, to build bridges, to excavate canals, to improve their towns, to give a style to their houses and public edifices, and to civilize their manners.

These are the views of prudent and thorough reformers, who, avoiding the ordinary clash of interests and prejudices, work upon a comprehensive plan, more for the future than the present, and addressed to the improving intelligence, not to the passions, of the people. To check every impulse that would lead to precipitate changes, which could only be brought about by the effusion of blood, and to prepare the minds of men by a slow but indefeasible process for the blessings of rational freedom, are the leading principles of their policy. The Austrian government perceives this clearly, and although Prince Metternich fears the reformers, there are no men in the imperial dominions for whom he entertains a higher respect. Such men indeed are amenable to no government jealousies—each in his own sphere is a *fate* that overrules them.

While from their familiar acquaintance with the institutions of most of the countries of Europe, especially with those of England, which they admire almost to idolatry, the reformers plainly see, and lament, the numerous deficiencies by which Hungary is still detained in the back-ground of civilization; nevertheless, they are thoroughly convinced that fundamental changes must be the work of time, if they are to be useful and permanent. They are perfectly conversant with the character of their countrymen, and allow for their ignorance and their prejudices; which, however, they never lose an opportunity of rebuking, when they can do so with effect, and without giving personal offence. They listen calmly to ob-

jections, from whatever quarter they proceed; weigh them patiently; admit them for what they are worth; and profit by them, if they can, in their further proceedings. If an obstacle cannot be conquered this year, they are contented to wait until the principle makes further progress, and a more favourable opportunity may arrive for returning to the subject. Several influential magnates in the diet are disposed to coincide in these opinions: they are, certainly, resolved on some important alterations; but they will not attempt to carry them into effect until Hungary shall be better prepared for them than it is at this moment.

In the meantime, all practicable measures of an *auxiliary* nature are in progress. For instance, a club has been established at Pesth upon the London system, of which all the magnates, most of the deputies, and of those whom we would call the principal gentry, are members. They assemble frequently in groups, and freely discuss political topics at their club-house, which they call the National Casino. The very epithet, "national," is not without its spell upon these conversations. The English, German, and French reviews, magazines, and newspapers, and popular publications of every description, are found in their reading-room; they have also lectures on the sciences and fine arts; and are thus beginning to Europeanize their minds. Some time after this club had been established, Prince Metternich of course turned his attention to it, and felt no small alarm when he perceived its natural tendency. He required an explanation of its purposes from the Count Szechenyi; and upon hearing him, decided that it required control. "If you wish to control it," rejoined the Count, "the only way to accomplish your object is to give us a good subscription, and become one of our members. You will then have a vote, and your personal influence will no doubt have its due effect." The prince took the hint and joined the club, which is now in a flourishing condition.

Another of the *auxiliary* measures of the reformers, so characteristic of their admirable sagacity and forecast, as well as of the prejudices of the Hungarian nobility, which they have to contend against, is the proposed bridge across the Danube, to connect Pesth with Buda, which I have already mentioned. The steam navigation of the Danube will also be a most powerful instrument of civilization; for it is quite true that steam and civilization are daily becoming almost convertible terms. Wherever one of these is found, the other cannot be far distant. A newspaper also is published at Pesth, and that too, in the Hungarian language—a prodigious innovation, and one that promises important consequences; for there is no *law* of censorship in Hungary; and it is not very likely that the diet will sanction any proposition of the kind. There is, besides, an academy at Pesth, somewhat on the plan of the French Institute, which publishes its transactions and papers in a quarterly journal. To that journal, as well as to the newspaper, the reformers frequently contribute articles, written generally for the purpose of correcting some national prejudice, or inculcating some wholesome principle of legislation. These articles they sign with their names, as they are determined to carry on all their plans of improvement in the face of day, and upon the system of keeping "within the law," which they perfectly well understand.

Count Szechenyi has written two very elaborate and able works; one on credit, with the view of doing away altogether the system of entails, in those cases where the life-owner of an estate chooses to borrow sums of money upon its security. In such cases, the writer contends, that if the loan be not repaid before the death of the mortgager, the mortgagee should be at liberty to sell so much of the estate as may be sufficient to meet the debt. The evils which grow out of the present system in Hungary are enormous, as the nobles retain so much of the old feudal influence that they borrow money in the most reckless manner; and having no more than a life

interest to pledge for the funds so acquired, the creditor is often defrauded of his just demand. If the whole estate were liable to it, the younger children would be interested in checking the wild extravagance which now prevails in most of the higher noble families of Hungary; and they would themselves learn betimes the value of economy, without which they never can be truly independent. The Count's second work is of a more miscellaneous character—it discusses the various reforms of which Hungary stands in need, with a view to the amelioration of its institutions, the construction of roads, bridges, and canals. He shows, from a careful survey, that the interior of the country superabounds in natural wealth, which only requires practicable communications with the frontiers, in order to convert it into gold.

The manner in which one of these books found its way to the light is worth mentioning. The Count, by way of precaution, although he was aware of there being no *legal* censorship in Hungary, submitted his work to the censor appointed by the Austrian government. The censor in the first instance licensed the publication; but while it was going through the press, the eleventh sheet having been already printed, an order was issued putting a stop to its further progress. By some means or other the sheets which were printed, together with the remainder of the manuscript, found their way to Leipsic, and back again to Pesth, in the shape of a neatly-printed volume, of which a thousand copies were sold before the government knew of its arrival! Previously to that event, the Count sought in vain for an explanation of the reasons upon which the license had been withdrawn; but when the book could no longer be suppressed, apology after apology was made for the stupid blunder of some of the authorities, which alone had been the cause of the delay! Inquiry was made as to the particular officer who had issued the order; but no such officer could be found, no such order was in existence, and the

mystery attending the prohibition of the work became just as difficult to be solved as that of its publication.

Another Hungarian magnate had written and printed at Pesth a very strong tract indeed in favour of reform. But it could only be purchased at Bucharest, whence it returned, as if upon the "viewless winds," whenever it was ordered. These transactions led to the settlement of the fact, that there was no *law* authorizing a censorship in Hungary, and the first offspring of this advance in knowledge was the establishment of a newspaper. Other newspapers doubtless will follow, and as there are an English manufacturer of paper at Pesth, and a type-foundry upon the most improved system, the press will, in due time, accomplish its wonders in that region.

If the diet could be induced to take upon itself the whole of the expenses required for improving the navigation of the Danube, such an act would be a virtual declaration of independence. I have no doubt that this measure will be eventually adopted, and that the day is not far distant when the crowns of Austria and Hungary must be separated. There is at present no indisposition in Hungary to accept a king from the imperial family—but he must fix his residence at Pesth, and be contented to rule under the control of the ancient constitution of the country, which requires very few alterations in order to accommodate its provisions to the modern condition of society

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CHAPTER X.

The Hungarian Constitution—The Golden Bull—Privileges of the Nobles—Royal Prerogatives—Office of Palatine—Magnates—County Courts—The Free Towns—The Diet—Revenues of Hungary—Reformers.

As the constitution of Hungary is of a character in some degree resembling our own, though infinitely more compli-

plicated and aristocratic, a brief description of it may be acceptable to the reader. When the Magyars originally settled in Hungary, towards the close of the ninth century, they were ruled by an oligarchy, which acknowledged as its chief the renowned Arpad. His descendants succeeded to his chieftaincy, under the title of dukes, for upwards of a century, until the zeal of Stephen, surnamed the Holy, for the propagation of Christianity, won the favour of the Pope, who presented him with a crown and a cross, and declared him the king and apostle of Hungary. He ascended the throne, and after having been crowned, he successfully directed all his efforts to the establishment of the religion which he had introduced. An assembly of the nobility and clergy was held at Gran in the year 1016, which enacted a code of laws. When Stephen, after a long and prosperous career, drew near to the close of his reign, having lost his only son, he nominated as his successor a nephew by the female line, passing over others nearer to the succession, with a degree of authority which seems to have been almost absolute.

At this period the Hungarians were divided into two principal classes, those who served the state in person, and those who contributed supplies in money or produce. Of the first class, there were some who entirely devoted themselves to the service of the state, as officers of the crown, and thus became the origin of the order of nobles; there were others who rendered to the crown certain specified services, and paid also a share of the contributions; and again an inferior class, who, nevertheless, assumed no inconsiderable privileges, constituted a species of royal guard for the defence of the frontiers and certain fortresses. The latter sort of force may still be seen in several parts of Hungary, dressed in the ordinary costume of the peasants, but uniformly armed with a musket.

The Crusades enabled the higher class of nobles to extend their power. While Andreas II. was absent at the Holy Wars in the early part of the thirteenth century, they framed a

charter, which they compelled him upon his return to confirm, by what is generally known as the "golden bull," dated 1222, seven years after the period when our own Magna Charta was obtained. The object of the golden bull was purely aristocratic. It relieved the nobles from all contributions in money or produce, and imposed them exclusively upon the lower orders of the people. In Hungary as in England, the privileges thus extorted gave rise to a long series of contests between the sovereign and the nobles; the latter were almost uniformly successful, and when the house of Arpad became extinct at the commencement of the fourteenth century, they elected a foreign prince to the throne. The two centuries which followed were marked by numerous civil commotions, during which, the nobility repressed every effort on the part of the monarch or the people to abridge their privileges. The descent of Soliman upon Hungary in 1526 produced for the moment union amongst them; the fatal battle of Mohacs was followed by a civil war, which terminated in the establishment of Ferdinand I. of Austria upon the throne. Since that period the Hungarian crown has remained in the Austrian family, although the right of inheritance was not formally acknowledged by the nobles until the year 1687.

Innovations have been repeatedly attempted by the Austrian sovereign upon the fundamental articles of the constitution conceded by the golden bull of Andreas II., but those efforts only gave rise to one commotion after another, which united the nobility against the crown for the preservation of their privileges. Those privileges they have jealously and successfully maintained to the present day. One of the best authorities on the subject thus sums up the principles of the Hungarian constitution:—"Hungary is an hereditary but limited monarchy; the king has many and great rights and prerogatives, more and greater than the king of Great Britain. But, at the same time, great and numerous are the rights and the privileges of the Hungarian nobility, who alone, in the language of the

state, are included under the appellation of the Hungarian *people*, and are distinguished in a peculiar manner from the nobles of all other European nations, from the circumstance that the seals and grants of their privileges have suffered least from the changes of time, and that the characteristic features of these rights now approach nearer than any to those of the nobles in the days of the crusades."

The Hungarian constitution, in fact, at the present moment, strongly resembles what our own was before the period of the Commonwealth, when those democratic modifications were introduced into it, which have since supplanted most of its ancient feudal characteristics. The people, in the meaning which we attach to that term, have no privileges, no power of any description in that country. The king's authority is limited by the laws, which he can neither abrogate nor suspend, unless by the consent of the states assembled in Diet. He is the administrator of the laws, and in that capacity exercises the prerogative of mercy; but although he is supposed, as with us, to preside in all the courts of justice, he cannot alter the established forms of judicature. He nominates to all the dignities of the Catholic church, the spiritual sanction being given, of course, by the Pope. All important ecclesiastical affairs are subject to his control. He appoints the professors in the universities and public schools, the endowments of which are all at his disposal. He makes war and peace, negotiates treaties, receives ambassadors, is absolute chief of the army, directs the organization of the military frontiers, and can levy contributions for the maintenance of wars. He may for such purposes also demand the services of the nobles, but the grant of these services depends upon the discretion of the states. He alone can create nobles, and confer titles, privileges, and immunities, or bestow charters on free towns. But such towns cannot send deputies to the diet until they have obtained its consent. The diet is assembled or prorogued at the king's

pleasure, subject to certain fundamental regulations. He presides in that body by his representative, proposes the subjects for deliberation, and rejects or approves of their decisions.

The King, moreover, nominates all civil and military officers, with the exception of the Palatine, and the two ministers styled the guardians of the crown. The free towns elect their magistrates and council, subject to his Majesty's approbation. He is bound to appoint from the nobility of Hungary, to all the principal offices of state. He coins money, and is the proprietor of all mines which afford the precious metals, and which are usually worked at his expense. In some instances the administration and revenue of the posts belong to the lord of the territory in which they are established; otherwise they are vested in the crown. Salt is a royal monopoly; tobacco is so in fact, though not in law, as I have already stated; the hereditary property of nobles who die without issue falls to the crown, as well as estates forfeited for treason and other high crimes, and all unbequeathed property whatever, that of citizens in the free towns and of peasants excepted, which goes in the former case to the town, in the latter to the lord of the soil.

A Hungarian chancery is established at Vienna, consisting of a chancellor, vice-chancellor, and counsellors, through the medium of which the executive authority of the King is administered. But this department acts in concert with the council of state, which resides constantly at Buda.

The office of the palatine is of a peculiar nature. It is one of great dignity, as ancient as that of the monarchy itself, and invested with more than viceregal power. The person who holds it is protector of the throne during the King's minority; he is president of the chamber of magnates in the diet, and of the council of state; it is his prerogative to mediate, when occasion requires, between the sovereign and the states; he nominates a vice-palatine, who is chief of the military array, or the insurrection, as it is called, of the nobles in times of

danger. He is also the principal executive magistrate of the county of Pesth. The dignity was formerly temporary; it is now conferred for life. When the office becomes vacant, the king presents four candidates to the diet, who are bound to choose one of the four within a year from the occurrence of the vacancy. The viceregal office in Hungary is not necessarily combined with that of the Palatine, but it usually is so in point of fact.

After the palatine and vice-palatine, follow in the order of dignity, the judge of the royal court, the governor of Croatia, Dalmatia, and Sclavonia, and the Tavernicus, who presides over the court, to which all appeals are made against the decisions of the magistrates in the royal free towns. These officers, together with several others under different titles, are called the barons of the kingdom, including the members of the council of state, and the council of seven, whose duties are chiefly of a juridical nature, in appeal from other courts. Next follow the magnates, or superior nobles, and the dignitaries of the church who are summoned individually to the diet; if they are not able to attend personally, they have the privilege of sending representatives to act for them. The dignity of magnate is acquired from office or inheritance. The barons above-mentioned are all magnates *ex-officio;* so also are all the chief executive magistrates of the counties; consisting of the palatine, the archbishops of Gran and Eslaw, the chiefs of twelve families in which the executive office is hereditary, and others chosen by the King. The heads of the four princely families of Hungary, Esterhazy, Batthyani, Grassalkovitz, and Palfi, of ninety-nine of the families of counts, and of eighty-eight of those of barons, are magnates by inheritance.

Hungary has its county meetings upon a different plan from ours, but conducted with the same freedom. The chief magistrate of the county, who is called the obergespann, or sheriff, presides. They are attended by the magnates, prelates, nobles, and *deputies* of free towns; and at these assemblies are dis-

cussed all matters of a public nature connected with the interests of the country. They moreover frame instructions for the persons deputed to the diet; promulgate the King's ordinances; elect the officers of the district, who are usually appointed every third year; assess the contributions which are to be levied on the peasants, and enact regulations of local police. The county court exercises extensive jurisdiction, both in civil and criminal matters, as well by original process, as by appeal from the courts held by the nobles on their own estates.

A Hungarian noble is not liable to arrest, except for treason, or when taken in the act of murder or robbery. In other cases a citation is issued calling on him to appear; until a case of aggravated contempt be made out, force cannot be used against him. No person who is not noble can obtain justice directly from one who is; if a peasant, he can only demand it through his lord; if the citizen of a free-town, through the magistracy of the town to which he belongs. A plebeian who assaults a noble is liable to the punishment of death, or to the loss of all his personal and real property; the latter, however, he can reclaim for one-tenth of its value. Nobles are, as I have before stated, exempt from all taxes and imposts. As the magnates attend the diet personally, or by their personal representative, the county representatives are chosen by the inferior nobility.

The citizens of royal free towns have also certain privileges; their persons are protected by the law; they must be cited before their own courts; they have a right of appeal to the court of Tavernicus, to the septemviral council, and to the King. In return for these rights they must permit soldiers to be quartered upon them; must furnish a certain number of recruits, form part of the insurrection of the nobles, and contribute to the town duties. They are exempt from tolls, and are moreover eligible to civil and military offices. A free town sends its own representative to the diet; it can possess

lands and villages with a lord's right, and it inherits all the unbequeathed property of the citizens. It annually elects its own magistrates, who administer justice, and make local regulations. Besides the royal free towns, there are certain districts, such as those of Jazyga and Cumania, and the six *Haiduck* towns, Nanas, Dorog, Hathay, Varuos-Perts, Boszormeny, and Szobolso, which from peculiar services to monarchs have obtained the privilege of sending deputies to the diet.

Besides these there are eighteen chapters of cathedrals, which return two deputies for each to the diet. But although these deputies, as well as those of the free towns, the privileged districts, and the Haiduck towns, have the right to sit in the lower chamber, and to deliver their opinions upon any subject under discussion, none but the county representatives have the privilege of voting. The representative of a magnate does not sit in his principal's place in the upper chamber; he sits in the lower one, where, like the deputy of a free town, though he may speak, he has no right to vote.

From the year 1298 to about the year 1526 the diet of Hungary was held in the open air near Pesth. It was then a national council rather than a representative assembly, and was frequently attended by upwards of 80,000 persons. It was subsequently, reduced by representation, and removed into the town. The king may summon it to sit either at Presburg, or Buda, or in any other town within the boundaries of the kingdom. It usually sits at Presburg. The law ordains that the diet should be assembled every five years. Upon the death of the king, a diet must also be called for the coronation of the new sovereign, within six months after the demise of his predecessor. The notices to the members for the holding of a diet are issued about six weeks before the day of meeting, and as they specify the business on which it is to be occupied, an opportunity is given for considering these subjects in the mean time in the county meetings. The free towns have also their meetings for the same purpose. The public expenses of the

diet are defrayed by a rate levied in the free towns and villages; the expenses of the deputies are paid by the bodies which send them.

The total number of individuals who usually attend a diet is upon the average about seven hundred, namely, the palatine, two Catholic archbishops, sixteen Diocesan bishops, ten Titular bishops, one Benedictine prelate, one Præmonstratensian prelate, two hundred and forty magnates, one legate from Dalmatia, Croatia, and Sclavonia, fifteen members of the royal court of justice, two deputies of the kingdom of Croatia, thirty-six deputies of chapters, seven abbots and provosts, one hundred deputies from the fifty counties, eighty deputies from the forty-eight royal free towns, two delegates from the districts of Cumania and Jazyga, two delegates from the six Haiduck towns, and about one hundred and ninety representatives of absent magnates and their widows. These members are divided into four states; the first of which includes the high Catholic clergy; the second the reich-barons, grafs, and barons; the third the inferior nobles present by the county representatives; and fourth, the free towns, present by their deputies. The members of the diet sit in two separate chambers; that of the magnates, and that of the representatives. The palatine presides in the former; in the latter the representative of the king, usually the president of the high court of justice, which sits during the session of the diet.

The propositions addressed to the diet for discussion are communicated by the king or his commissioners to the four states, assembled in the royal palace; they are then read and discussed in each chamber separately, and such modifications are made in them as the chambers may think expedient. If the two chambers disagree, a conference is held, and the point in dispute is decided by the majority of the four states, each state voting according to the majority which appears within itself. The proposition so sanctioned by the diet is then submitted to the king; if he disapproves of it he sends it

back for reconsideration; long negotiations often follow, the session is protracted to two and three years, and after all the diet may be prorogued or dissolved before any thing is settled. Such propositions as are ultimately agreed to by the diet, and sanctioned by the king, are arranged in the form of a decree by the chancery; the decree is transmitted to the county courts, promulgated by these courts, and then becomes law. There are only two subjects upon which the diet has no power to make any regulations—one is the right of succession in the Austrian house; the other is the right of nobles to exemption from taxes.

Hungary yields in annual revenue to the crown about three millions sterling, in gross amount, without deducting the charges for collection. It arises from crown lands, royal privileges, and contributions. The former yield about £130,000 per annum, not including the private estates of the emperor. The royal privileges, consisting of profits upon salt, coinage, mines, the tolls on goods entering Hungary, going out of it, and passing through it, fines, income of vacant bishoprics, the taxes paid by Jews and free towns, a per-centage charged on certain official pensions, the contribution of bishoprics and abbeys towards the repair of fortresses, the post, the lottery, the Monti di Pieta, or equitable banks for lending money on pledges, and other minor sources of revenue, furnish about £2,370,000, and the remaining £500,000 are the produce of the annual contribution levied upon Hungary. The standing force of Hungary consists in time of peace of about sixty thousand men.

With reference to the reforms required in the Hungarian diet, it is clear that it cannot long be deprived of the power of originating propositions within itself for discussion and legislation. At present petitions may be presented to the diet, which may give rise to debate, but upon which no measure can be even proposed without the previous assent of the

crown. The representatives of magnates ought to be excluded from both houses. The deputies from the free towns, as well as from the chapters and other bodies, should have the right of voting as well as the representatives of the counties.

Moreover, now, as was formerly the case in England, some free towns which have greatly declined in population continue to elect deputies, while other towns which have much augmented their population are altogether without the elective franchise. Schedules A and B are much wanted in those parts of Hungary; the right of election requires to be more extensively diffused, and thus the work of reform would be conducted, without any great difficulty, to a successful conclusion, inasmuch as a strong spirit of freedom exists throughout the country, which is sustained by the custom long established, of holding public meetings, and also assembling at public dinners, at which speeches are made in every respect after our English fashion. Indeed, as I have before observed, political topics are as openly discussed in Hungary as they are with us; and though it can scarcely be said that a press exists as yet in that country, nevertheless it possesses a certain current of public opinion, against which the emperor has no means of contending, however disagreeable it may be.

It is understood that the finances of Austria are in a most disordered condition; so much so, that before long a dangerous crisis must arrive, unless measures for averting that peril be adopted in time. It will be impossible to mature any such measures, still less to carry them into execution, so far as Hungary is concerned, without the concurrence of the diet, which will then assuredly take advantage of its power to incorporate a complete political reform with that of the exchequer.

The imposition of a toll upon all persons, without exception, who will pass over the new bridge about to be constructed between Pesth and Buda, is but the commencement of the

abolition of those unjust privileges which exempt the nobility in general from contributing to the taxes. The clergy have at present a monopoly of all the means of education. It is intended to put an end to that system; to establish public schools upon the Lancasterian plan, in every parish of Hungary, which shall be supplied with masters educated especially for their duties at Pesth. The administration of justice requires also a complete revision, and the wealth of the church is supposed very considerably to exceed the real wants of a Christian establishment. The magnates are disposed to assume a decided part in favour of all these reforms, but it cannot be doubted that they will take care not to make the people too strong, by widening, beyond what they deem to be strictly inevitable, the democratic basis of the constitution.

CHAPTER XI.

Sybaritism—the Count's Pursuits—Hungarian Language—Verses on the Vintage—First Appearance of Wallachia—The Iron Gate—Servian Gladova.

Count Szechenyi was so good as to translate for me one or two of his articles in the Pesth newspaper, the principal object of which was to reprove and correct the very general disposition of his countrymen to Sybaritism. They are in general, like the Germans, fond of the pleasures of the table, and extremely indolent. His style of writing is piquant and good-humoured, wholly free from pedantry, and his admonitions, which are pregnant with good sense, are conveyed in a friendly and even parental tone, which shows how deeply this excellent man has the welfare of his native land at heart. Personal ambition appeared to me to have no share in his motives of action; they seem to spring exclusively from a fervent, I

might almost say, a romantic affection for his country. He loves Hungary as a youth loves the first mistress of his heart; indeed, he familiarly calls his country his "wife," and he looks upon all its inhabitants as his children. He is perfectly aware that nations never profit by historical experience, that they must purchase it by a series of trials for themselves; at the same time he labours incessantly by his writings to diffuse amongst his countrymen the ample treasures of information which he has collected during his travels, and a regular course of study directed entirely towards that object.

The Count, as I have said, is now in the bloom of life; yet I regret to add that his health is occasionally interrupted, I sincerely trust not yet undermined, by some inexplicable derangement of the digestive organs. When not affected particularly by this malady, which is of a periodical character, he appears to be a vigorous, strong-bodied, active, indefatigable country gentleman; fond of rural sports in the season; a capital shot, and an excellent horseman. He is of the middle stature, of a good military figure, and a most intelligent and engaging countenance. His manners are those of a perfectly well-bred gentleman: indeed, if he had not spoken English with somewhat of a foreign accent, I should easily have mistaken him for one of my own countrymen, of that class who, from talent and information, combined with high birth, possess influence in the House of Commons.

Speaking of the Hungarian language, he observed that, in his opinion, its roots were Turkish. It was an extremely difficult language for a foreigner to learn; but, at the same time, peculiarly calculated for the expression of noble thoughts, as well as for the familiar purposes of society. By his writings, which are all in Hungarian, he has given the tone on that subject, in consequence of the eminent station which he holds from birth and property—and from being also the most popular man in the kingdom. He showed me an "Annual," with very good embellishments, and one or two other books,

which were printed at Pesth, in a style of typography not excelled in any other country.

The remarks of the Count upon the Sybaritism of his countrymen, induced me to copy, upon returning to my hotel, the following Latin verses on the vintage, which I found in the Pesth newspaper of the 28th of September.

DITHYRAMBUS IN VINDEMIA HORNA.

Gaudeamus igitur,
Hungari dum sumus!
Nam dant vinum copiosum
Jam in uvis gloriosum
Almus sol et humus.

Cælitus vindemia
Tollit vinitores:
"Vinum vetus ebibemus;
"Horno locum præparemus,"
Clamant potatores.

Semiusti clausimus
Spatium æstatis;
Sed autumnus restaurabit
Debiles et Bacchus dabit
Novam vim prostratis.

Gaudeamus igitur,
Hungari dum sumus!
Vino patrio et more,
Jubilantes uno ore,
Cætera sunt fumus.

Fr. Hanak, Dr.

Count Szechenyi had already apprized me of his intention to go down the Danube as far as Rutschuk. As we were preparing, on the following morning (October 3), to set out from Orsova, he added, that his object was to land at Giurgeva, a Wallachian town, nearly opposite Rutschuk, and thence to proceed to Bucharest, in order to obtain the sanction of the hospodar for the improvements which were meditated in the

bed and on the banks of the river within his principality. I took my seat with the Count in his phaeton, and we were followed by another carriage, occupied by his secretary, Mr. Tasner. Our road by the side of the river was scarcely practicable for such vehicles, as frequently we had to be drawn over narrow abrupt rocks, which, sloping towards the Danube, afforded the agreeable prospect of a cold bath, as well as of fractured limbs, in case of a break-down. In an hour after quitting Orsova we passed the frontier of Wallachia, where, if we were to judge from first appearances, misery seemed to have taken up her favourite abode. The cabins of the poor people were constructed of hurdles, not defended, even by the addition of mud on the inside, from wind and rain. Crowds of children appeared at the doors, literally naked, in company with pigs and goats, dogs, cocks and hens, and ducks, as if all were of the same order of existence. Some of these wretched habitations were altogether underground.

We soon arrived at the commencement of the celebrated "Iron Gate" of the Danube. It is a series of rapids, so called from the extreme difficulty of passing them, and also probably from the almost impenetrable nature and ferruginous colour of the rocks, which form the entire bed of the river to the distance of nearly three miles. These rocks, though so long washed by the torrent, are still as rough as when the river first found or forced its way amongst them. They are in large masses, tumbled about in every sort of shape and position, and now that they were completely exposed to view, in consequence of the depression of the river, they looked terrific; the gaping jaws, as it were, of some infernal monster. When the Danube is at its ordinary height, replenished by its usual tributaries, the roar of its waters, in hurrying through the "Iron Gate," is borne on the winds for many miles around, like the sound of continued peals of thunder.

The present state of the river was taken advantage of by the engineers, for the purpose of making an accurate survey

of the channel, or rather of the three channels which the rocks form in this part of the Danube. One on the Wallachian side, which is never used; one in the centre, which is of considerable width; and one on the Servian side, which in the state the river was when I saw it would scarcely allow a craft drawing a single foot of water to pass. The current is here extremely rapid, running at a rate of not less than eight miles an hour. The barges upon the upper Danube, as all that part of the river is called from the "Iron Gate" towards its source, are generally of the burthen of about five hundred tons. These vessels sometimes descend through the middle channel of the Cherdaps, as all this rocky part of the river is named; but they never can re-ascend, because the channels near the banks are too narrow, and the middle one too rapid. Hence the commerce between the higher and lower portions of the Danube is maintained by smaller craft, which seldom exceed two hundred and fifty tons.

A writer of great ability and information, who has paid some attention to the navigation of the Danube, and to whom I am indebted for an ample and flattering notice, in the *Quarterly Review* (No. 108), of the first edition of this work, has introduced into his article the following interesting and valuable remarks:—

"Except the rapidity, not the *shallowness* of the current, the *Cherdaps* are the only obstruction to the navigation of the Danube between Kolubatz—where the river enters the mountains from the plains of Hungary—to Fetislam, just above Trajan's bridge, where it again emerges from the mountains into the plains of Wallachia and Bulgaria. In this district, however, it is absolutely necessary to tow the vessels ascending the stream by a tracking-path; the windings of the river, and the absence of roads along the sides, necessitate a repeated change of bank, so that the vessels are obliged, after having made one point on one bank, to cross to the other side: thus, they naturally lose way and drop down the stream in their

passage—besides having to shift their trackers from bank to bank; nor is this last matter a trifle;—men, of course, have to be used for tracking instead of cattle, and the ascending craft has at times to be *laden* with this live cargo. From twenty to forty people are requisite for tracking a vessel through the mountains; and eight or ten pairs of oxen are wanted to get it through *the Cherdaps*, where it has often to be unladen and reladen.

"Now here two distinct questions present themselves,—the first, the deepening of the channel close to the tracking-path at Fetislam, to allow of large vessels returning upwards; and, secondly, the construction of a tracking-path through the mountains, to avoid the difficulties and inconveniences above enumerated, and permit the use of cattle for towing the vessels. Independently of both these, there is the steam navigation of the Danube, and these three enterprizes remain perfectly distinct, both as to the plans, as to the means of execution, and as to the authority by which they are undertaken.

"1. The *first* and most important, the deepening of the Cherdaps above Fetislam, has not, we believe, yet been commenced, nor the plan even fixed upon: two projects have been entertained, the first for blasting the rocks in the channel under water, and thus freeing the passage; the second for cutting a canal on the Servian side—but it is to be observed, that here neither bank belongs to Austria, although in the vicinity she has over-reached the Porte by obtaining a right to the fishery; she has, therefore, to obtain the consent of the Porte, and more particularly of the Prince of Servia, to this enterprize on the Servian soil. Prince Milosch had in the first instance promised not only his consent but his co-operation; but it having been suggested to him that Austria might make use of the influence she would thus acquire to the prejudice of the commerce of Turkey, either by the erection of tolls or in some other shape, the prince desired from Austria a pledge that she would take advantage in no way whatever of this enterprize, or of its con-

sequences, for the introduction of any regulation unfavourable to the commerce or navigation of the Ottoman provinces—that, in fine, the advantages to accrue from this enterprize were to be entirely free and common to all nations. Austria was dilatory in returning to these demands a categorical reply: but until she does so, the prince's zeal in her service will not be very warm; and without his active co-operation the matter cannot be arranged. Then, the moment such a demand was made officially to the Porte, it became subject to all the conditions under which such transactions are conducted: doubt, suspicion, and delay on the part of the Porte—and the interference of Russia in the various modes in which she has it in her power to interfere. That interference has hitherto been exerted to frustrate the enterprize, and it probably will be so in future, unless the general tone of the policy of England, much interested, if it were but commercially, in this matter, should take such a shape as to make Russia pause.

"2. The *second* enterprize is that of the tracking-path, from the commencement of the mountains and the narrows opposite Kolubatz to the frontiers of Wallachia.

"The Servian side presents much greater facilities for such an enterprize; indeed the Romans had established a complete line of path for this same purpose along that bank. At the lower portion of the passage the ancient corridor is cut in the rock, but at the higher extremity huge mortice-holes were let in for the insertion of beams, on which the tracking corridor was erected. A large inscription on the face of the rock remains to this day visible, and it gives the honour of this—one of the greatest, because one of the most useful of the works of Rome—to the Emperor Trajan. A recent traveller, whose MSS. notes are now in our hands, says—

"'Never did I more strongly feel the greatness of that wonderful people, than when, on sailing down the Danube, I first observed the traces and comprehended the object to which this work was destined. Such were the modest, and wherever it

was called for, scarcely more than useful intentions and acts of sixteen centuries ago. Here was the evidence of the accomplishment by the Romans, although scarcely an indication of it remains in Roman authors, of an enterprize which is now universally admitted to be one of the most important for the public welfare of Europe. In that chiselling of the rocks of Servia, what proofs are there not of commercial circulation and prosperity, and, consequently, of the national well-being and individual happiness of a former period, which it is the fashion to regard as sterile in useful fruits, because the habits of our times lead us to imagine that prosperity cannot exist without clamour, or commerce or industry without libraries of legislation!

" 'On looking at the two sides of the river, I immediately saw that the Servian was that on which the road *should* have been constructed, even had the Roman relics not been there, nor the facilities which the Roman work itself still continues to afford. The plan of the Romans, that is, corridors of wood, too, seemed the one best adapted to the nature of the country, covered with forests of oak. In fact, it appeared to me that the Roman road might be re-established with great ease: the rock having been cut away, the restoration of the wood-work would have been necessary. Servia would easily have supplied the timber; the river would have transported it; every Servian wears a hatchet in his belt, and they live under a system similar to that which has left so many and such stupendous ruins of works destined to public utility in Spain and Hindostan.' (1)

" This idea was subsequently suggested to Prince Milosch.

(1) "We cannot pass this notice of such a relic of the ancien t Roman sway in these regions without expressing our regret that no enthusiastic *scholar*, properly so called, has as yet conveyed to Europe at large some accurate information as to the actual Latin dialect still retained among the peasantry of what once was *Dacia*. In what are hastily called its barbarisms and corruptions, may not most interesting fragments of the real old *lingua rustica et castrensis* be to this moment preserved?"

It was objected, that as the Servians tracked their vessels, several villages lived entirely by that service, and the country gained half a million of piastres yearly; but he was soon made to perceive that, when the Austrian road was completed, horses belonging to the Austrian government would track the vessels. Some accounts have recently appeared in continental papers of this enterprize having been undertaken by the Servians; but we have stated all that we *know* on the subject.

"3. The *third* business, perfectly distinct from these two, is the application of *steam* to the navigation of the Danube. Whilst steam is extending to all the great rivers of the earth—when boats are building in London for the Euphrates, the Indus, and the Ganges—when steamers constructed on the Thames visit the Euxine, and have become familiar in the windings of the Bosphorus—it cannot be surprising that the same power should seek to establish its dominion on the central, the largest, the longest, the most important river of Europe, and, as it has been termed, its main artery. We know that it is navigated from Rahab, near Presburg, to Kolubatz, backwards and forwards, by immense barges drawing six feet water—that these same barges descend to Galatz, although they do not return: we further know that barges of different sizes and dimensions, drawing from two feet draft, and of eighty tons and upwards, navigate it during its whole course from Ulm to the sea—bring the produce of the salt-mines of Transylvania and Upper Hungary to a large portion of the Austrian dominions—ascend the Drave for the produce of the Styrian mines—and by the Save reach Laibach, within three days' land-carriage of the Adriatic. Upon these facts are formed our ideas of the capabilities of the river. Its navigation is difficult and dangerous; its rapids and its shallows, its overflowings and its droughts, are all serious obstacles. But there is an obstacle much greater than all these; and that is, the absence, along its whole banks, of any population in the slightest degree acquainted with naval architecture, or even

with the simplest operations of sailing and rowing. As an instance of this we may state, that the Turks, generally speaking, have an aversion to a sea-faring life, and know nothing of ships or boats; yet, on the Danube, so remarkable is the inferiority of the Germans and Hungarians to the Turks, that a vessel with a mast and a sail is known at once to be Turkish!

"But for the *steam* navigation of the Danube there was another very weighty point to be considered—that of *fuel*. Wood there was in abundance, but the greater incumbrance and difficulties in making use of wood have so far been a drawback on the enterprize. The nearest point where coals were to be found was Ædenburg, but these were of inferior quality. This difficulty was suddenly removed by the discovery of extensive coal-mines of the very finest quality, on the banks of the river itself, just within the Austrian dominions, and about the centre of that portion of the Danube which is navigable from its mouth upwards. Thus favoured, the first steamboat, '*Francis the First*' its name, was launched in the spring of 1832; and although laid up during the fair of Pesth, one of the principal branches of profit at first anticipated, although frequently out of order, and though the whole arrangements might be considered as provisional and experimental,—yet, during the summer, a profit of 40 per cent. was realized."

I had noticed on the Servian bank, opposite Veterani's Cave, the tablet cut in the face of the rock above alluded to, with an inscription upon it which seemed to be in good preservation, though we were not near enough to read it. It records, as the Count informed me, the completion of the tracking-road on that side of the river, formed by order of Trajan.

We arrived about noon at Gladova, where we found the *Argo* steamer waiting for us. But as the carriages and general articles of merchandize which had been forwarded from Moldava to Orsova had not yet made their appearance at the

Wallachian station, I was obliged once more to draw somewhat liberally on my stock of patience. Here were five days already spent in making a journey, for which two ought to have been amply sufficient. An excellent dinner, however, which had been previously ordered by the Count, and a bottle of Champagne from a case provided by him for our voyage, consoled us for our disappointment.

The mornings began to be rather sharp. Nevertheless we breakfasted on deck (Oct. 4) on dry toast and coffee; after which, taking with us a quarantine inspector, we crossed the river in a small boat to Servian Gladova, which is a fortified town of some pretensions. We walked through the environs; our inspector not permitting us to enter the interior of the town, unless we were disposed on our return to take up our abode in the lazaretto. The country around seemed remarkably fertile, but it was almost wholly uncultivated. Such of the inhabitants as we saw were pictures of indolence—they were mostly dressed in the Turkish costume, though many were apparelled in the European fashion. We saw only one woman in the course of our peregrinations, and she was closely veiled.

CHAPTER XII.

Trajan's Bridge—Navigable Stations on the Danube—Wonders of Steam—Speech of Prince Milosch—Neighbourhood of Gladova—Wallachian Hut—Matrimonial Speculation—Tea-drinking—Music — Charms of Procrastination — Departure from Gladova—Bends in the Danube—Approach to Vidin—Magnate's Costume—Visit to Hussein Pacha—The Pacha's Deputy—An Interpreter—Explanations—Pleasures of Disguise.

On our return to the steamer, some discussion arose as to the exact site of Trajan's bridge across the Danube, which,

though recorded in history, had hitherto puzzled the commentators; as, in fact, no trace of that once magnificent edifice had been seen for many ages. The Count suggested that, as the river was now so low, there was a chance of our settling the question by a personal examination. Accordingly, we proceeded on foot along the Wallachian shore, until we arrived at the ruins of an ancient tower, built on an eminence, which had been evidently raised by artificial means. The tower was of Roman construction, and, as we conjectured that it might have been intended as a guard-station for the defence of the bridge, we ascended the eminence with no slight feelings of curiosity.

Looking down the river, here of no very great width, and divided by a sand-bank, which, however, cannot be perceptible in the ordinary state of the Danube, we distinctly observed the water curling over a series of impediments extending in a right line from bank to bank. At both extremities of this line we perceived on the land the remains of square pillars; and, on approaching the ruin on our side, we found it constructed of blocks of stone, faced towards the river with Roman tiles, evidently forming the buttress of the first arch of the bridge. In the river itself we counted the remains of six or seven pillars, which had manifestly served to sustain as many arches, connecting the bank on which we stood with the opposite one. No doubt, therefore, could remain that here was the site of Trajan's celebrated bridge, a marvellous work for the times in which he lived, considering that it had been constructed on one of the most remote confines of the Roman empire. I calculated that these interesting ruins were about three English miles from Gladova.

The Count, who was seldom idle, sat down, upon our return to our cabin, and wrote for me, in English, a memorandum of the distances of the navigable stations on the Danube, which I here copy.

	German Miles. Part.	Total.
From Donau Eschingen, to Regensburg .	50	50
—— Regensburg to Vienna . . .	50	100
—— Vienna to Pesth	40	140
—— Pesth to Peterwardein . . .	60	200
—— Peterwardein to Orsova . . .	40	240
—— Orsova to Galacz	100	340
—— Galacz to the Black Sea . . .	25	365
If we add to these items the distance from the mouth of the Danube to Constantinople, by the Black Sea, which is seventy German miles .	70	
then the total distance from Eschingen to Constantinople will be four hundred and thirty-five German miles		435
or about one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight miles of English admeasurement		

As the voyage by steam, however, can only be made from Presburg to Constantinople, the distance is reduced to about fourteen hundred and forty English miles; which, when the steam-boat establishment and works on the Danube are completed, might be easily traversed in eight days and nights. At present, the journey overland from Vienna to Constantinople, cannot be made in the ordinary mode of travelling within less than three weeks. The new route by the Danube will exhibit, therefore, one of the most important triumphs over time which the steam-engine has yet accomplished.

The advantages destined to arise out of this great enterprise to Hungary, to Servia, Wallachia, and Bulgaria, and, indeed, to all Turkey, are incalculable. Those countries, which have hitherto seemed scarcely to belong to Europe, will be rapidly brought within the pale of civilization; their natural riches, which are inexhaustible, will be multiplied; their productions will be vastly improved; their institutions and laws will be assimilated to those of the most advanced nations; and new combinations, not only of physical but also of moral strength, will be created, which may give birth to important changes in the distribution of political power on the continent. In Servia the people have demanded and obtained a constitution from

Prince Milosch; the second assembly of the states has been already held at Karagozovatz, where, on the 28th of February, 1835, he delivered a speech, of which I have procured an accurate translation. As this speech exhibits an interesting and characteristic picture of the patriarchal condition of that principality, and as no copy of it has yet been published, I need not apologize for placing it before my readers.

"*Speech pronounced by Prince Milosch, before the General Assembly held on the* 16*th* (28*th n. s.*) *of February* 1835, *at Karagozovatz in Servia.*

"A year has gone by since we met in greater numbers, and on a more important occasion. It was our intention when we separated to assemble in greater numbers on St. George's Day, but owing to want of forage we were under the necessity of holding only a small re-union some time after that epoch. During the summer, as well as the autumn, it became impossible to convoke a national assembly; first, because, in consequence of the extraordinary drought, neither water nor hay could be procured; and secondly, because we had not been able to terminate the various reports to be laid before the general assembly. Even up to the present moment it has not been possible to complete the census of our population, and ascertain the amount of the income drawn from tithes and other sources of revenue. It has not been in my power either, within so short a space of time, to establish many of the institutions of which I yet perceive the urgent necessity. It is but a year since Servia has become a state. In laying down the foundation of a new one, it is necessary to go slowly to work, to take care not to utter even a single syllable which to-morrow, perhaps, we shall have to retract, much to the detriment of the public interest and greatly to our own dishonour. Centuries have gone by before the different states in the world could attain the position in which we at present see them. Yet every day their institutions require some alteration. Such must also

be Servia's fate; Servia cannot, in one year, become a state so perfectly administered as to be faultless. Many are the peculiarities which yet distinguish the Servian nation. These must be sacrificed to the civilization and enlightenment characterizing the nations of Europe, before we can aspire to be ranked among them. First of all, we do not possess yet amongst us the sufficient number of men capable of directing the administration of the country, as is the case in Europe. This has been the great drawback to the foundation of those institutions which it is my wish to establish in our country.

"On so solemn an occasion as the present, surrounded by the dearest members of my family, our metropolitan and bishops, the members of the Servian legislative body, those of the provincial tribunals, the captains from the different districts, the elders of the principal commonalties, and the high clergy, I appear before you, beloved brethren, to recall to your memory the speech I delivered last year on St. Tryphon's day before the General Assembly, and which I caused to be printed and distributed among the people. In that speech I acquainted you with the desire I had of forming a regular administration; secondly, of assessing taxation in a manner both equitable and simple, and at the same time convenient for the treasury; thirdly, of paying the debts of our former bishops, which were a great burden on the provinces lately incorporated with Servia. I have uninterruptedly during a year devoted my attention, both in the council and when consulting the legislature of our country, to ascertain the administrative system best adapted and most advantageous to our country, and have come to the firm determination, first, to promulgate a statute for Servia, accurately defining the rights and duties of the Prince of Servia, the rights and duties of Servian magistrates, as well as those of every Servian. This statute shall be read in your presence. You will then see that the general national rights are the rights which every Servian is to enjoy—are such as humanity demands; that the person of every Servian is free

—that every Servian is master of his property. Obedience to this statute we must swear—not only we who are now here assembled, but also every one of our brethren who happens to be absent. We must swear one to the other—the prince to the magistrates and people, the magistrates to the prince and people, the people to the prince and magistrates—that we consider this statute sacred and inviolable as we hold the gospel to be inviolable and sacred—that we shall not depart an inch from it, or alter a single syllable of it, without previously obtaining the approval and consent of the whole nation.

"Secondly, I have resolved to form a council of state, constituting the first and highest magistrature in the country after me, the prince. It will consist of six ministers, each of whom will preside over a department of the administration, and of various privy councillors. The ministers are to draw up reports on affairs, the councillors are to examine them—then authorize acts to be laid before me for my approval. Ministers, as well as the councillors, are responsible to the prince and people for their acts, and especially for every abuse they may be guilty of in the exercise of their power.

"Thirdly, I have caused our civil and criminal code, to the digestion of which four years have been consecrated, once more to be revised, improved, and rendered more intelligible. These will be laid before our judges, that they may, according to their contents, protect the innocent and punish the guilty. Henceforth, every Servian will meet with protection and justice, not as formerly, in the opinions of the judge, but under the ægis of the law. Through similar institutions, the internal administration will, I trust, become strengthened and connected as by a chain. The people will be placed under the elders, the captains, and judges; the judges under the council of state; the council under the prince, and in contact with the prince; the prince himself under the law, and in constant relation with the council. A similar institution will, I hope, act as a curb on the arbitrary will of us all in general, and of

each of us in particular. It is possible, that even in these institutions, imperfections may be detected; they will, in the course of time, come to light, and be remedied. Neither my judgment, nor the information I am possessed of, nor the time I have at my disposal, have sufficed to bring to perfection so important a task, that is, so as to enable me to say, 'No one will be able to find fault with my work,' or 'It is the most perfect work upon earth.'

"Having thus fulfilled the promise I made, to introduce order in the internal administration, I shall beg your attention to the other important question, mentioned in my speech of last year, namely, How should contributions be levied on the people?

"The Servian nation is placed under the necessity of meeting annually the following expenses:—The tribute to the sultan; the salary of the prince and his family; the salaries of persons holding situations under government; the salary of bishops; expenditure for the maintenance of a military force at home for the police, and also for the troops on the frontiers; for post establishments; for the quarantine establishment; for the mission at Constantinople; for the agents at different places; and lastly, expenses for unforeseen circumstances.

"Hitherto, revenues drawn from different sources have enabled us to defray the above indispensable expenses; in future, the Servian nation must, as for the past, furnish us with the necessary supplies. I have, in concert with the legislative body, endeavoured to find out the means of satisfying the imperious claims of necessity in the lightest and most equitable manner for the people, and, at the same time, the most convenient for our government. We had, during the course of last year, several discussions on the subject; some entertaining one opinion, others a different one. I perceived, at last, that it was preferable to draw up an estimate of the expenditure of Servia, and to collect the amount directly, and in one sum,

from the people. The collection of this tax shall be made at two different epochs of the year, one half being paid at the feast of St. George, 23d April, the other at that of St. Demetrius, 9th November, thus to afford the people time enough in the interval to collect the sum requisite before the appointed day.

"To prevent the people from being hourly teased by small indirect contributions, I have established but one tax, one of three dollars every six months, from every one; let every one, I say, pay three dollars half-yearly, and thus be exempt from paying any thing; whether for poll-tax, church-taxes, matrimony-tax, mill and distillery-tax, a corn-tax, and also the tenth on Indian corn, wheat, barley, and oats; the tenth on bee-hives and wine; and lastly, let the people be exempted from all kinds of obligatory service to men in office, except in those cases where government requires labourers for works of public utility; but even in this case, government shall pay wages to every man who shall work a whole day. Roads and bridges alone shall be constructed at the expense of the different villages. Forests and pasture grounds shall, in future, be national property; the whole nation paying contributions for them, it is but fair that the whole nation should enjoy the privilege of making use of them. Now, if the people will duly weigh the numerous advantages that will arise from this new mode of taxation, I trust every one will allow that no nation in Europe is more lightly taxed than the Servians.

"It remains to be seen, whether the produce of this tax is sufficient for the annual expenses. Our administration must now ascertain whether it be so or not. It will be the duty of the minister of finances, at the expiration of the year, to lay the accounts before me, the council, and the national assembly, exhibiting the income as well as the expenses of government.

"In order, however, that the assessment of this tax may be made in such a manner, that the richest as well as the poorest Servian may remain satisfied, I lay before you the census of

the population, in which the number of married as well as unmarried individuals is marked; the property of every Servian is also noted down, and of course the elders of every village are aware of the amount of each man's tithes. It is according to this list, and to each man's income, that the assessment of this tax is to take place. To decide what portion of this tax each individual has to pay is neither my business nor government's; this is to be determined by the elders of each municipality. They should examine this list, compare the amount of the tithes paid by each person, and, in concert with the captains and judges of his district, make the assessment of this tax in such a manner as not to give to the poor motives for accusing them of partiality.

"These words I address to you, Brethren and Gentlemen, and request you will let me hear, or communicate in writing, your undisguised and unanimous opinion on the subject, in order to enable me to ascertain whether you approve of the institutions I have alluded to,—whether you agree with me on the amount of taxation as well as on the mode of levying it. Let me hear your opinion, now that you are assembled, and after having sworn to-day the statutes, choose amongst you the most capable individuals, and invest them with full powers to act as your representatives here, so as to enable me to act in concert with them and the council of state. These persons, will afterwards return to their homes, and acquaint you with the result of our combined labours. Chosen by yourselves, these persons will be your deputies; and those whose representatives they are must provide for their entertainment; they will assist at every meeting in order to examine the accounts, and communicate information to the people on the subject.

"So considerable a re-union of men as the present one cannot, owing to the expense it occasions, take place annually; but Deputies of the People, such as I propose to you, exist other countries, and are equally necessary in our own."

Soon after this speech was pronounced, Prince Milosch was summoned to Constantinople, where, it is understood, in obedience to Russian influence, he has been obliged to pledge himself to modify his constitution, so as to render its elements less democratic. Thus, preparations are in progress throughout all that region for great changes; and communications between Vienna by the Danube, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, and London, are on the eve of completion, which will afford the merchant, the politician, or the summer traveller, the opportunity of visiting most of the principal cities of Europe, within the brief period of two or three months—a tour upon which hitherto no person could think of entering who had not at least a full year at his disposal. Such are some of the miracles of the age of steam!

The country around Gladova presents a picturesque succession of hills, which, sloping gradually towards the Danube, open their bosoms to the southern sun. At present they are scarcely cultivated, but it can hardly be doubted that in a few years they will be converted into vineyards, for which the soil is well adapted. The Count looked forward with singular pleasure to the improvements which his efforts were calculated to produce in all the countries washed by his native river.

We were invited in the evening to take tea with the military, or rather the quarantine, commandant of the place. As we quitted our boat the day had just closed. There was a golden hue along the verge of the horizon towards the east, and the new moon appeared in the transparent sky of Servia a delicate crescent of silver. I had never before beheld our satellite at so early a period of its monthly course. It seemed to have but that moment received on its mountain tops the first rays of the sun. I no longer wondered that it should have been adopted as a national ensign in that country: seen, [illegible] I then saw it, suspended like the bow of an angel in the [illegible] it was an object almost for adoration.

Our host, a Wallachian officer in blue uniform, was a well-looking young man, full of good-nature. His house, or rather his hut, was constructed of hurdle, plastered on both sides with mud, and on the inside whitewashed, the walls betraying all the irregularities of the wicker-work. The flat roof was in the same style. His bed, a mattress, which lay in one corner, raised a few feet from the ground, was the common sofa. His chamber boasted of two tables, on one of which his museum and toilet were established, consisting of heads and amber mouth-pieces of Turkish pipes, a silver bell, a pair of scissors, a snuff-box, a musical box, a dressing-case, a huge silver watch, a penknife, a smelling-bottle, and a pot of pomatum; all enshrined beneath a brown gauze veil. On the wall, a gay rug, exhibiting in the middle a Memeluke holding a hound in the leash, was suspended, and within this apartment were tastefully displayed his sword, gun, cartouche-box, powder horn, ataghan, belt, and epaulets.

Our party was soon increased by one of our friend's brother-officers, an ill-looking guest with one eye, who was accompanied by a great fat ugly woman, without a tooth in her head, dressed out in all her finery of "tinsel and brocade." Though not young, it was apparent that she had won the heart of her attendant, who, having found for her a chair, placed himself on a stool at her feet, holding her brawny hand in his, which he frequently kissed. I learned afterwards that she was very rich, and that, hearing of the establishment of the steam-boat, she removed from the interior of the country to Gladova, with a view to look out for a husband. She appeared to be on the highway to success.

We had tea in tumbler glasses, mixed with milk and rum, which, as the evening was cold, we unanimously pronounced excellent. The musical box in the mean time was wound up, and afforded the *lovers* a treat. The Count entered into the spirit of the scene with the most playful good-humour, exhibiting that unaffected condescension, that happy power of placing himself upon an equality with those around him, without a

the same time impairing the natural dignity of his manner, which have procured for him unrivalled influence amongst his own countrymen. We finished the night in our cabin with a rubber of whist, the count taking "dumby" against Mr. Tasner and myself.

Morning came again (October 5), but still no sign of the carriages or merchandise, for which we were waiting. We were all really provoked by this protracted delay, which seemed unaccountable, as we had received intelligence of their arrival at Orsova. The Count, having procured a horse, said he would ride on as far as the "Iron Gate," hoping to meet the caravan on the way. He hoped in vain, and rode on to Orsova, where he found the oxen and men engaged for the purpose all asleep! He set about putting the oxen to the cars himself, and remained till he saw the whole team on the road. The laziness of these Wallachians is indomitable. They would have remained at Orsova for a week, without thinking of moving, if the Count had not luckily paid them a visit.

Our cargo having been once more arranged on board, we most willingly took our departure from Gladova at noon the next day. The Danube being extremely low, we were obliged to proceed at a cautious pace until after we passed Trajan's bridge, where the water became deeper. The Count pointed out to me the tops of the higher range of the Balkan mountains, which appeared at a great distance, like a blue vapour in the sky. The country on each side of the river seemed wholly uncultivated; it was composed of gently-swelling hills, which, when subjected to the plough, will, doubtless, abundantly repay the toil of the husbandman. The grass was parched by a long-continued drought, which had scarcely been interrupted by more than partial showers during the preceding seven or eight months. In spring those hills, clothed in fresh verdure, must look beautiful. Naked and desolate even as they then appeared, every bend of the Danube, and the bends were innumerable, opened a new and ever-varying prospect.

The Wallachian bank, exposed to all the fervour of the

noonday sun, appeared peculiarly destined for the vintage. But the whole of that country had been so long distracted by anarchy, that the people, who had fled to Hungary, are only now beginning to return. Their cottages are still constructed in the most simple and temporary style, because they do not feel assured of the continuance of that domestic peace, which happily they now enjoy. When the population increase—when their habitations are improved—when their industry is encouraged by the influence of order and the laws, and they feel themselves protected from the spoliation of marauding armies—they will be enabled, with the assistance of a few years, to convert the whole of that region into a Paradise. The Servian territory, also, on our right, seemed capable of great things. The soil looked rich and crumbling; nor was beauty of scenery wanting to its other attractions.

Some hours after leaving Orsova, such is the extraordinary manner in which the Danube winds its course, that it actually retrogrades towards Moldava, and I came again in sight of the mountains through which I had passed in the fishing-boat. These mountains stretch across the north-east angle of Servia, where they form a cluster like the Apennines, and partly divide that principality from Bulgaria. We stopped for the night at Vervo.

Having resumed our voyage at the dawn (October 7), we arrived early at Kalefat, where we took on board three Wallachian officers of the quarantine, as the Count intended to pay a visit to the Pacha of Vidin. The redoubts still remain here which were thrown up by the Turks during the late war with Russia, and in the neighbourhood of which a severe engagement took place. The Russians are supposed to have lost eight thousand men on that occasion, although in their report of the battle they took no note of the slain. The important city of Vidin, in Bulgaria, exhibited at this point a very imposing aspect. I counted twenty minarets shooting up their whitened spires above the domes of the mosques, and amidst the tall cypresses,

which are found in almost every Turkish town. Several troops of infantry were encamped on a plain in the neighbourhood; the activity which prevailed about their tents, and the marching and countermarching of divisions in order of battle, informed us that they were under review at that moment by the Pacha. The regiments seemed well accoutred, and thoroughly conversant with the evolutions which they had to perform.

As we approached Vidin, the scene became extremely animated and picturesque. Numerous boats were gliding up and down the river, between the town and the camp, or stationed near the bank, where crowds of the inhabitants, including a large proportion of females, were collected in order to see the steam-boat. Two or three groups of ladies, who appeared to be persons of distinction, as I concluded from the respect which was paid to them, as well as from their snow-white lawn veils and their long green and scarlet cloth pelisses, were seated apart from the multitude. They had no male attendant with them, and they occasionally rose and walked about, as if to show that they were under no sort of restraint.

The Count, having obtained permission from the Turkish authorities to go ashore, exchanged his ordinary dress for the court costume of a Hungarian magnate, which is peculiarly splendid and becoming. It resembles the uniform of an officer of the hussars, with the exception that the jacket, as well as the short mantle, are of purple velvet. The Count's sword and sword-belt, with its large gold clasp, were magnificent. He wore, moreover, the gold key as chamberlain to the emperor, and three or four Austrian collars and orders. He had the goodness to invite Mr. Tasner, and myself to accompany him on his visit; the former had already a character as his secretary, and as it was necessary for me to comply so far with Turkish customs as to appear also a member of the Count's travelling suite, I became for the hour his *physician.*

The pacha to whom we were about to pay our respects was

the celebrated Hussein, who had so bravely defended Shumla against the Russian army in the last war. He is known to be the best soldier, and one of the most able men in the Ottoman empire; but having failed in the expedition to Syria, where he was twice beaten by Ibrahim, he was recalled in disgrace. His enemies at the Porte strenuously exerted themselves to have him introduced to the acquaintance of the eunuch who has possession of the bowstring; but the sultan respected the talents of Hussein, and never doubted his fidelity. Had he remained at Constantinople, he would have probably regained his former ascendancy in the state: he was therefore *exiled* with the extraordinary rank, however, of field-marshal, to the Pachalic of Vidin, where he endeavours to forget his reverse of fortune in his exertions to form a few regiments who are intended to be models of discipline to the whole army.(1) Hussein is a sincere patriot—a thorough hater of Russia; and there is no doubt that, if a revolution were to occur at the capital, threatening a change of dynasty, he would be found a formidable champion of the Mahometan cause.

Upon landing with our quarantine attendants, we were conducted through an immense crowd of the people on shore, who received us with every possible degree of civility, to the pacha's palace, which is just at the entrance to the town. Ascending an open staircase, we were shown, in the first instance, to a large balcony which commanded a fine view of the river. Here we found the pacha's chief officer sitting in state in the usual Turkish fashion, on a wooden sofa, which

(1) "Mr. Quin does not tell us where he picked up this information. Hussein Pacha was, in fact, removed from the command because he had been unfortunate; and he was at the same time *deprived* of the rank of field-marshal; but there was just as much probability of his head being cut off, as there was of Mr. Quin's —and a few months afterwards he was named to the pachalic of Vidin as a concession to the Christians in that very precarious and difficult government." *Quart. Rev. No.* 108, *p.* 487. [I obtained my information from the pacha's interpreter.]

was covered with a carpet. He had two or three pillows to support his back, was smoking a long pipe with an ordinary amber mouth-piece, and was surrounded by eight or ten domestics, some of whom were most wretchedly attired in the Greek or European dress, barefooted, and wearing on their heads the red Greek cap, which, in fact, is like a red cloth nightcap with a blue silk tassel at the top, and to my mind peculiarly unbecoming.

The Count had forgotten to provide an interpreter. The embarrassment, therefore, may be easily conceived, which was felt by both parties, when the vice-governor could not ask us what we wanted; and if he did ask us any such question, we could make no reply. We examined each other, so far as looks could serve, with unfeigned curiosity, and resolved that we were mutually in a very ludicrous situation; from which, however, we were, after half an hour's delay, fortunately released by the entrance of Hussein's physician.

This man was a Florentine by birth; but he had been sent to Turkey at a very early age to seek his fortune, and had now almost wholly forgotten his native language. He affected to speak French, and was looked up to by the vice-regal court of Vidin as a linguist of the first order. He was dressed in the Greek cap, blue round jacket and trousers, gray worsted stockings, and yellow slippers. There was a sinister expression in his eye, and a consciousness of guilt upon his flushed forehead, as well as in his nervous utterance, which warned us at once that we were in the presence of an adventurer, who for an adequate consideration would never refuse the secret exercise of his skill against the enemy of his employer. We felt as if we could read in his countenance a volume of crime, and we afterwards learned from our quarantine companions that our suspicions were by no means unfounded.

The Count explained in French, that he had come to pay his respects to the pacha, upon which we were informed that the pacha was not at home; that he had gone out with his

favourite son to review the troops encamped near the town, but that he was expected back every moment, as his carriage had been sent for him, and a messenger would be despatched to hasten his arrival. The physician stood at the end of the sofa, covered, as in fact we also were, in compliance with the manners of Turkey; whenever he had occasion to speak to the vice-governor he put his hand to his forehead, then to his lips and breast, the established mode of giving the salam, which, by the way, constantly reminded me of a Roman Catholic making the sign of the cross. Our carpet stools meanwhile were brought from the steam-boat, in order that we should strictly observe the quarantine laws, by not touching any thing capable of communicating the plague. We then sat down, looking at each other, as before, for nearly an hour, the silence being now and then interrupted by a question addressed to the physician by the vice-governor, then interpreted to the Count, who gave his answer, which was again interpreted to the vice-governor, who nodded his head, looked surprised, and again puffed a more than ordinary cloud of smoke from his distended cheeks.

I own I did not feel quite at ease in my medical character. I was apprehensive that the physician would have interrogated me on professional matters, and would have discovered my entire ignorance of the subject, for in truth I had never seriously read a medical book in my life. Luckily he avoided every topic of the kind as much as I did, and most probably for the very same reason. Pipes and coffee were brought, which varied the scene for a moment, the attendants taking scrupulous care while they handed us the little china cups on a tray, and the long pipes, to keep themselves from touching any part of our dress with their own habiliments.

CHAPTER XIII.

Hussein Pacha—Hussein's Son—Group at the Interview—Commencement of Conversation—Conversation prolonged—Steam Expedition—Cool Reception—Pacha's Harem—Boat aground—New Delays—Zantiote Boat—Adventurous Changes—Separation—Ionian Luxuries—A Grave Mistake.

The vice-governor was a fat sickly-looking man, about fifty years of age, and grave even to stupidity. He could not hold out his curiosity beyond the ordinary question, whence we had come, what we wanted, and whither we were going. Having exhausted these topics he sunk again into a sort of Sybarite dreamy torpor, as if the odour of his tobacco were the perfume of Paradise. It was certainly very fragrant, and his coffee was the best I ever tasted. The physician was still a young man, but he looked also pale, haggard, and nervous. He complained much of the air of Vidin, as peculiarly unwholesome; it was, he said, extremely cold, as compared with that of Stamboul, where he had lived for thirteen years. The town, and especially the palace, were exposed on one side to the vapours of the Danube, which here presents an extensive surface to the rays of the sun, and on the other to the freezing blasts which rush down from the Balkan mountains. He was assuredly much discontented with his lot, and confessed with an involuntary pang, which flung a strong expression of remorse athwart his forehead, that he had adopted the Mahometan faith.

At length the rattle of a carriage was heard driving into the court-yard below: it was immediately announced that the pacha had returned, and in a few minutes we were summoned to his presence. Passing through a line of twenty or thirty shabby officers, some of whom were dressed in turbans and flowered silk pelisses, we entered a large plain saloon, covered with a blue carpet, and containing no other furniture except a divan, or bench, hung with yellow damask, which extended

all round the room close to the walls. In a dark corner, seated in the usual Turkish attitude, was Hussein, apparently about fifty-five years old, his face deeply marked by the small-pox, swarthy and tremulous, as if he had not been unaccustomed to opium. His eye beamed with the light of superior intelligence experienced in the exercise of authority. He wore a dark olive cloth pelisse, edged with sable fur, and the red Greek cap with its blue silk tassel. He was smoking when we entered, and continued to smoke while we remained.

On his right hand was seated, also in the Turkish fashion, his son by his favourite consort, about ten years old, dressed precisely like his father, beyond all comparison the most beautiful boy I ever beheld. A high forehead, dark well-defined eyebrows, long black lashes, brilliant hazel eyes, downy oval cheeks glowing with the blush of health, lips red as the rose and pregnant with the consciousness of high station, but at the same time pensive, combined with other features of more than Italian perfection to exhibit a model for one of Raphael's angels. The contrast between this boy and his father will be understood by those who have seen the statues of Prudence and Justice in St. Peter's at Rome, or who can imagine Winter furrowed by storm and mantled in cloud, coming back to look at Spring.

The tone of Hussein's voice, naturally rough, was evidently softened by the influence which the presence of this lovely youth exercised over him. He desired us, in a very kind manner, through the physician, to be seated, our own stools having been brought in for that purpose. We formed a strange group altogether—the pacha smoking on the divan, his son near him with a small riding-whip in his hand headed by a silver whistle; the Count in his Hungarian costume seated in front of the pacha; Mr. Tasner and myself in black, our hats on, seated on the left of the Count; the three quarantine officers standing in a line with us; immediately behind the Count his groom in rich livery, and his gamekeeper

dressed in "Lincoln green," cocked hat and green feathers, each with a double-barrelled fowling-piece in his hand, mounted in silver; and at the back of these a train of officers and domestics without either slippers or shoes, their toes peeping through their stockings, arrayed in every variety of European and Eastern habiliments, extending from the angle occupied by the pacha to the door.

The preliminaries of presentation having been gone through, the Count stated, through the Florentine, that as he was passing by Vidin on his way to Bucharest, he felt it incumbent on him to pay his respects to the pacha: that he was a nobleman of Hungary appointed by the Emperor of Austria to direct the improvements which were necessary to facilitate the navigation of the Danube by steam-boats from Presburg to the Black Sea, whence they might then proceed to Stamboul. The enterprize, when completed, would be equally advantageous to Turkey as to Hungary, and he availed himself of that opportunity to recommend it to the pacha's protection. Hussein bade the Count welcome, and said that he was very glad to see him, but made no allusion to the enterprize, which he did not appear to comprehend. A pause of nearly a quarter of an hour then ensued, during which we seemed all conscious of being employed in conjecturing how this oppressive silence was next to be broken.

At length, the pacha having exhausted his pipe, inquired if the emperor was much beloved in Hungary. The Count answered in the affirmative, adding that it was impossible for any man to know the emperor without esteeming him for his great personal virtues. An effort was then made to prolong the conversation by an allusion to the relations of peace which were now happily established between the Turks and the Hungarians, who had been so long engaged in hostilities; but Hussein cut it short by the maxim, that it was always better for men to be at peace with each other than at war. This truism having been pronounced with great self-complacency, and ad-

mitted on all hands, a second quarter of an hour elapsed in solemn taciturnity, which was really very embarrassing.

The assigned period for the generation of another idea having been fully accomplished, the pacha delivered himself of an observation, that the emperor had several officers of distinguished talent in his service. The Count confirmed the justness of this remark. Silence again resumed her wand, and we were all spell-bound. In the mean while, pipes with splendid amber mouthpieces, were brought by the attendants, and presented to us; after which another set of domestics came around with a japanned tray, on which sweetmeats were served in glasses. But as it would be necessary for us to use silver spoons, which were on the tray, and silver is supposed to be a conductor of the plague, our quarantine friends interposed and prohibited the luxury, much to my annoyance, as beside the sweetmeats were arranged glasses of sherbet. Hussein smiled, not pleased however, at the scrupulousness of our guards, which he must have felt as a sort of imputation upon his country.

Small china coffee-cups were then brought in upon a gold tray; they were turned down, with silver filagree cups placed over each. Coffee was next produced in a japanned pot, and the tray and coffee-pot having been placed on the floor by the attendants, one of them presented a cup to our chief officer, who, removing it from its silver case, filled it with the fragrant beverage, and placed it in the Count's hand. In this way Mr. Tasner and I were also served. The pacha and his son took some sherbet. This ceremony being concluded, the pacha inquired whether the steam-boat was going to Stamboul. The Count replied that the steam navigation so far was not yet completed, but that when another boat, which was daily expected from Trieste, should arrive at Galacz, it would be possible to make the voyage from Presburg to Stamboul in eight days. This intelligence produced an exclamation of surprise from Hussein. His officers and domestics held up their hands

in amazement. But it was clear that Hussein was no friend to this sort of expedition, which he evidently thought predicted no good for Turkey.

The Count, finding that the interview had already lasted long enough, rose, and we took our departure. As we came out he gave one of the servants ten gold ducats to be distributed amongst them, according to the Turkish custom, which permits no person of rank to visit another without levying this kind of tax for the benefit of the domestics. In most cases it forms the only wages they receive. The Count had intended to present the two fowling-pieces to the pacha, but he came away without effecting his purpose, as the medical adventurer's interpretation was really so loose and blundering, that it would have been impossible to have performed the ceremony with that degree of gracefulness, which would alone have given value to the gift. Perhaps, too, the Count felt that his reception was cool.

It was our wish to have walked through Vidin, and to have made ourselves acquainted with the features of that important town, but our quarantine officers would not hear of such a thing. We were even directed to get rid of the dust of Vidin on the soles of our boots by dipping them in the river. Upon returning to our boat we were therefore obliged to content ourselves with all we could see through a telescope of its fortification and mosques, bounded in the distance by the Balkans. The pacha's harem formed a striking object in the scene, but we could discern no bright eyes peeping through the lattices by which every window was guarded. We were told, indeed, that two ladies, dressed in black long cloth pelisses, and closely veiled, who stood on the bank of the Danube under the harem, were its principal inmates. But beyond this supposition our curiosity was destined to meet no gratification.

The Wallachian officers dined with us. In the course of conversation I learned that the quarantine establishment, which gave full employment to the only troops the hospodar possessed,

was entirely under the control of the Russian consul at Bucharest. I took the liberty, therefore, to remark that our guests were in fact Russian officers much more than Wallachian, inasmuch as the regulation of the quarantine in any country is the peculiar attribute of sovereign authority. This remark, far from being contested, was on the contrary immediately acceded to: the gentlemen appeared rather pleased at being recognised as imperial servants, in which character they also considered the hospodar. Indeed, they added, how could any doubt exist upon the subject, seeing that the prince, when he was invested with the office of hospodar by the sultan at Constantinople, was arrayed in the Russian uniform?

After dinner we proceeded on our voyage; but found the river so shallow, that we stopped for a while, and sent out men to sound for a deeper channel. Under their guidance, and rubbing occasionally over sandbanks, we kept on until the evening, and stopped for the night at Argugrad. On the following morning we again proceeded on our way; but about nine o'clock the boat penetrated a sandbank, where it remained as firmly fixed as if it had grown up from the bottom of the river. Anticipating an accident of this kind, we had brought with us from Argugrad a flat-bottomed vessel, for the purpose of lightening the steamer of its cargo: but upon sounding the river from bank to bank, it was discovered, to our dismay, that even if the cargo, boiler, engine and all, were removed, we had not the slightest chance of moving beyond the spot, where we were fixed as by the spell of an enchanter. We had, moreover, the agreeable prospect, about a mile before us, of three country boats, laden with "fruit," planted also like so many rocks, in the bed of the Danube.

The paddles of the engine were backed, with the view at all events of getting the steamer afloat, but they revolved in vain. The boiler was then emptied of its contents; still she remained imperturbable. Anchors were thrown out to shift her from her ground; but after breaking all our ropes, and

exhausting every contrivance, we were obliged to give up the task in despair. The Count made up his mind to remain on board the rest of the day, and if no chance of liberation should offer itself, to send for horses to Kalefat, and to proceed by land to Giurgeva and Bucharest. He obligingly proposed to take me with him in his carriage, saying, that I could have no difficulty in crossing from Giurgeva to Rutschuk, where I could procure horses for a journey over the Balkans to Constantinople. We calculated that it would take a day to go to Kalefat for the horses; a second day, probably, to find them; a third to return, and get the carriages ashore, and that after all it was not certain that a carriage-road could be found practicable as far as Giurgeva, without first going to Bucharest. I looked forward with no very pleasant feelings to this delay, seeing that the season for travelling was rapidly drawing to a close.

Towards evening, while I was walking alone on deck, impatient of the obstruction which my voyage had encountered, an Italian ship carpenter, whom we had taken on board at Gladova, came to announce to me that a boat was in sight, which he knew to belong to some Zantiotes, with whom he had been employed in constructing the two frigates we had seen at Semendria. The boat, he added, was certainly on its way to the Black Sea, where they would coast it down to the Bosphorus, and so on by the Hellespont and the Archipelago, to Zante.

I had already learned from the captain that beyond Rutschuk the banks of the Danube were low, marshy, and wholly destitute of interest, especially for one who had passed through the splendid scenery between Moldava and the Iron Gate. I was informed, moreover, that if I went as far as Silistria, I should have very little chance of finding horses there, and would run the risk of being even inhospitably treated by the Russians, who might suppose that I had some political purpose in view, in paying their garrison a visit. I therefore resolved

o take a passage in the Zantiote boat to Rutschuk. The Italian informed me that the men to whom it belonged were perfectly trustworthy and civil, and that as I was an Englishman, and in some degree a fellow-subject of theirs, I might depend upon the best accommodation they could afford me.

It was no very welcome change to pass from the comparative luxuries of the steamer—from a good mattress, excellent dinners, champagne, and the fascinating society of the Count, to an open boat, manned by Greek carpenters, with whose conversational language I was wholly unacquainted. But my anxiety to "go on" superseded all other considerations; and there was, moreover, an adventurous character about the transition, which was not without its influence upon a mind fond of examining the phases of human character in every shade of society. The Servian Jew we had left at Vidin; the Moldavian poet had been for some days laid up with a nervous fever. But when he heard of my resolution, he crept up on deck to take leave of me.

As the Zantiote boat, which to me, at first, appeared like a little black speck in the distance, approached, I desired the Italian to hail it, and inquire whither they were bound. His former companions immediately recognised him, and they pulled up, within quarantine distance, of the steamer. They said that they were on their way home; that they had two Turkish passengers; one for Nicopoli, the other for Rutschuk; that they would be very happy to afford me a passage, if I would accept it, as far as I pleased, and that I might depend upon their utmost attention. The good-humoured look of these Ionian islanders confirmed me in my determination, and I much surprised the Count, who with Mr. Tasner, was busily engaged in writing, when I went to communicate to him my plans, and to bid him farewell. Though not prepared for so sudden a separation, he saw at once that the opportunity of so soon pursuing my voyage to Rutschuk ought not to be thrown away, as he confessed that he was not very certain of being

able to go overland to Bucharest or Giurgeva. Having already made the journey to Constantinople from Semlin, he gave me some useful instructions as to the mode in which I should proceed, and directed the captain, who was acquainted with the Wallachian language, to furnish me with a letter to the agent of the Steam Navigation Company at Rutschuk.

Having taken leave of my friends, I descended into the Ionian boat, and was instantly separated from them by the bar of quarantine. The crew of the steamer assembled, and cheered us as we departed, and the Count, whose kindness to me I shall never forget, waved his handkerchief until we were veiled from his view by the increasing dusk of the evening. The vessel in which I found myself seated was a large, strong, open boat, in which there was a company of seven hardy well-looking men, who occasionally relieved each other at the oars and the helm. Three hoops were stretched over the centre of the vessel, and over these was spread a thick mat formed of dried reeds, which served as an awning. Beneath this canopy my Turkish fellow-passengers were seated on carpets. They received me with the utmost civility, and made room for my portmanteau and carpet-bag, which I converted into a sofa. Near me was a sack of walnuts, which offered no mean apology for a pillow.

My new friends immediately offered me some grapes and bread, which I declined, but which reminded me that I had committed a grave mistake in not having provided myself for the remainder of the voyage from the larder of the steam-boat. One of the crew, who seemed to be their captain, opened his chest, and took out of it a large thick blanket, which he wrapped carefully around me. The night was cold, and the moon in its first quarter gleamed on the swarthy faces of my Turkish companions; one of whom, a military officer, was an extremely handsome man. The stars were all out, and we had so much light that we pursued our way until ten o'clock, when we stopped for the night near a Turkish village.

CHAPTER XIV.

Zitara Palanka — Turkish Hospitality — Interior of a Caffiné— Mahometan Devotee—Orisons—Race of Tartars—Social Variety —Turkish Khan—The Nargillé—Supper—Woman—Seclusion of the Sex—Eating in the Dark—Visitors Astonished—A general Invasion — Return to the Boat — New Acquaintances— Nicopoli—Night Scene.

Soon after day-break (October 9th), our men were at their oars, which they plied with a degree of vigour and determination very different indeed from the annoying and invincible indolence of my Wallachian acquaintances. The morning was sunny and cheerful; but the banks of the Danube no longer presented any scenery worth observation. The Balkans had altogether vanished from our view, and there was not a hill, or even an eminence of any kind to be seen.

My breakfast consisted of a piece of excellent brown bread, and some dried curds, which I afterwards often found in Turkey and Greece, as a substitute for cheese. The captain, perceiving that I had brought no provisions with me, seemed pleased to perform for me all the duties of a host; placing near me a wooden bowl, filled with curds, a brown loaf, and a wooden canteen replenished with wine. I preferred, however, the pure element below, whenever I had occasion for it. To be sure, this frugal fare was a change from the well-served board of the steamer; but I consoled myself by thinking, that good living was not always conducive to health, and that a fast now and then is among the best prescriptions which a doctor can furnish.

Towards noon we put in to a Turkish village, which the crew called Zitara Palanka. We went ashore to get a supply of provisions; the Turkish officer, who wore the red Greek

cap, his pistols and ataghan stuck in the silk scarf with which his loins were belted, and his long pipe in his hand, took me under his protection. The village was a small straggling place, consisting of wooden houses, most of which were shops for bread, curds, butchers' meat, soft goods, groceries, fruit, rock salt, dried skins, shoes, boots, and slippers. We went to the caffiné, or coffee-house, before which we found three or four Turks sitting on a mat, in a rude sort of balcony, the floor of which was slightly elevated above the level of the street. They were well-looking men, and they received my friend and myself with a salam full of good-nature, and at the same time, not without dignity.

The pipes were all immediately put into requisition, and coffee was brought to us in china cups, my only objection to which was their minuteness. The beverage was served without sugar, the latter being a luxury in which Turkish villagers seldom indulge. My friend observed, at once, that I did not much relish my coffee in this way, and ordered sugar to be brought. But there was none to be found in the caffiné, until "mine host" procured some from a neighbouring shop. With that addition the coffee was very good, and I found three or four cups no unwelcome illustration of my philosophy of fasting. A considerable store of curds, bread, and grapes, was purchased by my military companion, who would not suffer me or any other person to contribute to the sum which he paid for it, though he intended it for the common use of the passengers and crew. The grapes were large and well-flavoured, but they would have been much better if they had been kept a little longer in the sun. I rather pressed a few piastres on my friend, as my share of the day's expenses, but he would allow me to pay for nothing, and looked as much as to say, "you will offend me if you insist."

The interior of the caffiné consisted of one large room, divided by a low railing into three boxes, if I may so call them, within which mats were spread. At the side of the

room, opposite to the door, was the fire-place, arched at top, not level with the floor, but raised nearly breast-high, for the greater convenience of making coffee. The fire was of wood, and on one side a large tin pot held water constantly boiling. On the other side was an earthen pot, containing roasted coffee reduced to a fine powder by the aid of a pestle and mortar. Whenever a cup of coffee was ordered, it was prepared in two or three minutes, uniformly by itself, in a small saucepan.

A beggar-woman, who shifted herself along the street upon a pair of low crutches, exhibiting a picture of the most squalid misery; three or four ragged boys, and a wild-eyed dwarf, came to gaze at me with astonishment, hearing that I was an Englishman. The village has a mosque, with the usual accompaniment of a white minaret, crowned by a tin spire. It was a wretched building. The road through the street was the natural sod, trod into dust and hardened by use. With all these symptoms of poverty, there appeared every where an abundance of all the necessaries of life, and a degree of personal ease, or rather indifference, about the inhabitants, who, by the way, were mostly armed in the Turkish fashion, which induced me to conclude that, though so remote from the haunts of civilization, even Zitara Palanka was not without its share of the general happiness bestowed by a benignant Providence on mankind.

We returned to our boat, and there being a light breeze in our favour, we hoisted a sail. I had a favourable opportunity of observing the practical influence of the Mahometan faith, in the demeanour of one of my fellow-passengers, named Noureddin, who wore a green turban, long gray beard and moustaches, a tattered brown cloth pelisse, and wide blue trowsers, patched all over. I understood that he was on his way to Constantinople, intending to ride on a donkey from Rutschuk to Varna, whence he would proceed by sea to the Bosphorus. After visiting the principal mosques at Stamboul, he was resolved to join one of the parties of pilgrims who

usually sailed at this season of the year for Alexandria, thence to proceed on foot to the shrine of the prophet at Mecca. He was therefore a "devotee;" and I must confess that I have never seen any Christian so constantly, so fervently animated as this Mussulman was, by the all-absorbing consciousness that he lived and moved in the presence and under the immediate protection of the great Creator of the universe.

Noureddin watched for the rising sun, having previously spread his carpet (about the size of one of our hearth-rugs) on the floor of the boat. Turning his face towards the east, he stood wrapped in pious meditation. The moment the sun appeared above the horizon he knelt down, prostrated himself three times, kissed his carpet, and then remaining on his knees, said some prayers which were manifestly poured out from the fulness of his heart. When these orisons were concluded he again thrice prostrated himself, kissing his carpet each time. He next rose, and repeated a few prayers standing. Then folding up his carpet, he sat down and told his beads.

My military friend, on the contrary, seemed to have no thought whatever of religion. Though dressed in the scarlet uniform of an officer of rank, and that splendidly too, his pistols, sword, and ataghan being richly mounted in gold, and his highly-ornamented cartouche-box being suspended by a cord of gold twist, nevertheless he sometimes smiled at the ardour displayed by Noureddin. I afterwards learned that he was in fact a Tartar, a race of men who are met with every where in Turkey, are usually employed in the most confidential subordinate offices of the state, and are identified with the Turks in manners as well as in religion. But in the practices of the prevailing faith they are cold and negligent from habit, or rather perhaps from their general intelligence, which has elevated them above the Koran. He displayed in his cincture the old-fashioned brass case for ink, and pens formed of reeds, which he civilly requested me to use instead of my pencil, when he saw me writing notes in my journal. He

examined my silver tube on the new plan, containing lead alone regulated by a screw, with great curiosity. He also looked over my journal, apparently wondering how I could make any use of the characters, to him wholly unintelligible, with which my pages were crowded.

The scenery of the Danube continued desolate on both sides. Occasionally we saw amongst the islands immense flocks of wild ducks and geese, the latter of an extraordinary size. Our boat proceeded down the current at a very fair rate. I dined on bread, curds, and grapes, read for some hours, and wrote with my friend's reed and ink the paragraph which is now under the eye of my "gentle" critic. In the course of the afternoon, Noureddin twice repeated his orisons and ablutions, always with the same unaffected sincerity of devotion. The captain of the crew, who though their acknowledged master in all things requiring regulation, seemed in every other respect upon an entire equality with his companions, read to them, while the distended sail permitted them to lay up their oars, popular fables from a small octavo Romaic Greek book, which appeared to attract their general attention. Now and then he interpolated between the sentences a short commentary of his own, which, uttered with a roguish smile, made them all laugh. The day continued to its close warm and beautiful, and though I devoted some thoughts to the esteemed Hungarian friends whom I had so lately left, as well as to the case of champagne which they had not yet exhausted, yet I must acknowledge that I shared, without a murmur, in the simple fare, as well as in the contented, I might say the happy, feelings of the people around me.

At half-past six we stopped for the night, and landed, by the light of the moon, near a small village, where my Tartar friend gave us to understand we should meet with excellent accommodations. The path led us by an old fortress, near which the khan was situated. We found the owner standing outside, and he showed us a ladder by which we ascended to

an open balcony covered with mats. He then took a key out of his pocket, and opened a door through which we entered a large room, divided as usual by low railings into several compartments, one of which, however, was considerably elevated above the rest, and was covered with a finer mat. The embers were still alive in the fire-place, which exactly resembled the hearth already described, except that it had a receptacle beneath for the ashes. I sat down upon the edge of the elevated box. My fellow-passengers, and most of the crew who came with us, took off their shoes in the middle of the room, and then seated themselves in the usual attitude of Turks, in one of the lower compartments.

Coffee was served without sugar, but my friend, more provident than myself, produced from beneath his cincture a little paper of sugar, which he gave me. Noureddin smoked the hooka, or nargillé (*i. e.* fire and water), the bubbling noise of which was peculiarly disagreeable to my ear. This instrument resembles a large carved glass decanter, in the neck of which two small tubes are inserted. One of these tubes communicates with an elastic pipe which reaches the mouth of the smoker; the other tube terminates at the top of the decanter in a small cup, called the *loulé,* in which the dried leaves are placed, whose essence is to be extracted. These leaves usually come from Shiraz; they are a species of tobacco much relished by Turks, but when ignited, the smoke is so rancid that they are obliged to purify and mitigate it by passing it through water. The two tubes inserted in the neck of the decanter descend half way down the vessel, and the remaining half is *nearly* filled with water. Thus the suction through the elastic pipe and one of the small tubes draws down from the loulé the smoke, which, after depositing all its impurities in the water, passes into the mouth of the operator.

In the course of an hour supper was brought in, which consisted of chicken stewed and served in a savoury sauce, hot bread, hot buttered cakes, and boiled rice, which I found

by no means unpalatable, notwithstanding my recent conversion to the Pythagorean system. These dishes were cooked by the female branches of the family, in the lower apartments of the house, which to us of course were inaccessible. Even in the most obscure villages of Turkey, the custom of secluding the women from every place frequented by man is most rigidly observed. I began already to feel the sombre colour which this national law imparts to the external appearance of every Turkish community I visited. Men—constantly men, and nothing but men, were to be seen every where—so much so, that I got quite tired of looking at them.

I am one of those who think that without Eve there could have been no Paradise. Woman excels us greatly in purity and ardour of feeling, in tenderness of heart, in absolute devotion to every object of her affections. As parent, wife, or daughter, there is an intensity in the performance of all her duties, that prevents her from bestowing even a thought upon the exertion, or the difficulties with which they are attended. Equally fitted for society or solitude, the cottage or the palace, guided by the impulses of good sense, which are better for the routine of every day than our most elaborate reflections, her heart is the calm and secure harbour of every good and noble thought amid the storms of life.

The systematic absence, therefore, of that portion of the inhabitants from the groups which were to be met with in the bazaars, and shops, and coffee-houses, often cast a cloud upon the enjoyment which I might otherwise have derived from the novelty of the scene. It is not, however, as some travellers have represented, a custom peculiar to Mahometan manners. It existed in Greece, and continues there still. It prevails very much in Wallachia, where the religion of the prophet never acquired any influence. In fact, all over the East, as I am informed, it is deemed a violation of traditional and well-established notions of delicacy, rather than of any rule of the

Koran, for a female, especially before marriage, to appear in public without an imperative necessity, and then not without being closely veiled.

Before we dipped our fingers in the dish, we washed them, our host pouring out water on them from a jar with one hand, while the other supplied us with a towel. This operation tended in some degree—a very, very small degree, I must confess,—to reconcile me to the further process of dividing the members of our prey with my greasy friend, Noureddin, and two or three of our crew. I could also have excused the attentions of the Tartar, who really meant to be most friendly, when he selected from the middle of the stew a couple of legs for my approbation. However, cautiously avoiding the part which he touched, I found the remainder very pleasant.

From circumstances which afterwards took place, I inferred that perhaps it was as well that while we sat upon the mat to supper, I could not see all the contents of our dish very plainly. The light, a solitary candle, was stuck in a sconce by the side of the elevated fire-place, and lent to us but a feeble ray. Nor can I even now think without horror upon the courage with which, adopting the manners of my companions, I immersed my bread in the sauce after the more solid materials had vanished. The bread was unleavened, and hot, having been just baked for us on the hearth in the harem below. It was prepared in large cakes, which were broken into pieces, and arranged round the dish. The buttered cakes formed the second course, but I did not touch them, as they appeared not to have been cleanly made. I supped chiefly on the boiled rice, which I ate with a wooden spoon, and finished off with grapes and coffee. When the pipes and hooka were again resorted to, some Turks came in who seemed to be acquaintances of the Tartar. They appeared glad to see him, and after conversing with him at some length, one of them, who spoke a little Italian, asked me if I were an Englishman. I answered of course in the affirmative. He

then asked me how long it was since I left England. I told him that after my departure from London I spent some time in Paris, which I had quitted exactly a month ago. My interrogator and his friends looked quite astonished at the expedition with which I had so far accomplished my journey. But when I added that I lost nearly the half of that month in delays of one kind or another, and that when the steam navigation of the Danube should be completed, I might hope to make the whole journey from London to Constantinople in fourteen days, they gave up any further inquiry into the matter; it was altogether beyond their comprehension.

Preparations were made for our stay at the khan during the remainder of the night. A flock bed was brought up from below and spread for me in the elevated compartment. It was covered with a wadded silk counterpane, to which a foul sheet was sown on the inside. A large greasy-looking pillow was placed at the head. I felt an instinctive reluctance to commit myself for some hours of unconsciousness to the keeping of this concern; but as all my companions were either preparing for repose on the mats which they occupied, or were already wrapped in sleep, the sympathetic propensity was irresistible. I took off my coat, hung up my cloak over my head, and got under the counterpane. But I was not long in my position before I was apprized of the presence of numerous intruders. The reader may imagine my uneasiness, although they did me the honour of simply marching in multitudes over my face and hands, for I happen to be one of the human race whose blood, for some unaccountable cause, they are uniformly compelled to spare. An immense cat came also to share my couch; but to her company I objected at once without the least ceremony.

Matters being in this situation, and new colonies swarming around me every moment, I started up and disencumbered myself of some at least of my too curious acquaintances. Noureddin meanwhile awoke, and having succeeded in light-

ing the candle by blowing into a flame an almost extinguished ember, which reflected a Rembrandt brightness on his gray beard and swarthy cheek, proceeded to smoke his hooka, whose bubbling sounds were by no means music to my ear. I hid myself in my cloak, applying to my soul the flattering unction that I might thus avoid all my enemies, and laid down outside the counterpane. Happily the dogs of the village had an aggregate meeting, wherein they agreed that the Englishman should have no sleep that night, and straightway they despatched a radical deputation to present to me their impertinent address. I say "happily," because I had scarcely remained half an hour listening to their clamour, when, peeping out from my place of concealment, I beheld the walls at my head and at my left hand literally black with armies, bent on fresh hostilities. I was struck with horror. Even Nourreddin was astonished. There was no alternative but to return to the boat, and I cannot soon forget the obliging manner in which my proposition to that effect was immediately adopted by all parties.

It was midnight when we found ourselves once more beneath our matted canopy. The pure atmosphere, and my couch formed of my portmanteau, carpet-bag, and pillow of walnuts, were delicious after the close and populous prison from which we had just effected our escape. I fell into a profound sleep, from which I awoke not until six o'clock in the morning. I then washed my face and hands in the Danube, and felt as joyous as the day itself, which was splendid. As the men had resumed their oars soon after our return to the boat, we had made good way during the night. The banks of the river continued flat and wholly devoid of interest. We did not meet even a single wherry on the water to interrupt the dullness of the scene. Now and then we encountered large dark green water-snakes, swimming against the current, by the undulating motion of their tails, holding their heads carefully out of the element. If we attempted to strike them with an oar, they

dived instantly, and reappeared a few minutes after at a considerable distance. High over our heads large flocks of wild ducks passed, which sometimes produced a singular effect by their wings glistening in the distant hazy air.

About five o'clock in the afternoon we came in sight of Nicopoli, a considerable Turkish town, remarkably well situated upon a range of hills rising above the bay in the river. The Wallachian shore looked marshy and desolate; but on our right the hills were abrupt, and so chalky in appearance as to remind me of the cliffs at Dover. The whole range forms a semicircle, at the foot of which are the waters of the bay. At a distance these hills looked like a series of fortresses, each cluster of cliffs resembling redoubts and towers admirably adapted for defence. The town is surrounded by strong ramparts in good repair, and well mounted with cannon. We landed. My Tartar friend, having procured a donkey, rode away after consigning me to the care of Noureddin, and wishing me farewell in his best manner. The crew laid in a fresh stock of bread and grapes. Noureddin led the way to a caffiné where the nargillé seemed all the rage. It was crowded with Turks. This (Friday) being their sabbath, all the shops, with the exception of those of the butchers, bakers, and fruiterers, were shut in the market-place. Noureddin ordered coffee and a sausage. When the latter was produced, half heated through, I did not much relish its appearance; it found still less favour in my eyes when I saw that Noureddin had no other means of dividing it than by pulling it asunder. The coffee I could not take, as it was without sugar, and the grocers' shops being closed, none was to be had.

I was proceeding alone to take a view of the interior of the town, when I met a Moldavian, who addressed me in French. He advised me not to go into the town, as the Turks were extremely jealous of strangers. He told me that he had come from Galacz, on his way to Giurgeva, where he had business, but that the boat in which he performed the voyage was pre-

vented from going further than Nicopoli by the want of water in the Danube. He added, that it would be quite impossible for us to proceed further down the river, as a little below Nicopoli there was hardly any water at all. While we were talking, a Servian, dressed in the European fashion, came up, who also spoke French. I inquired of him whether it would be possible for me to procure any thing in the shape of a good dinner in the town; he answered, with a smile, that the thing was quite impossible. I expressed my regret that I could not even get a cup of coffee, as there was no sugar to be found anywhere; upon which he pulled a piece of dirty blue paper out of his pocket, in which was carefully wrapped a small lump of sugar. He very kindly offered it to me, but as the article was so scarce, and his sample of it not very inviting, I delined his civility. The Moldavian hung about me for some time, for what purpose I could not guess, until at length he produced what he called a coin of the Byzantine empire, which he offered me for a Napoleon. I was too well prepared for this species of dealing, to afford his bargaining propensity the slightest encouragement.

The captain of our vessel came to me to state that, as the river was so extremely low, he could not think of departing from Nicopoli until next morning. But as I did not choose to put up with this delay, I insisted on our resuming our voyage without further loss of time. As to the deficiency of water, we did not require more than two or three inches to keep our boat afloat: if we could not find that depth, we must drag the boat along until we passed the shallow, which had been described to me as extending to no great distance. The moon would soon be up, and therefore we could make the experiment by night as well as by day, and at all events it would be attended by no danger. He pointed out to me eight or ten vessels in the little bay, which it was found impossible to move: nevertheless he yielded to my wishes, and we set off at half-past seven in the evening.

For about an hour after our departure the bottom of our bark was perpetually in contact with the rocky bed of the Danube; so much so that we were pushed rather than rowed along. We then found ourselves in deep water, and as there was no further difficulty to be encountered, I consigned myself to repose. I awoke, however, about eleven, when I perceived that the helm was abandoned, the crew were all fast asleep, and the vessel was left to take its own course down the current. The moon exhibited but half its orb, and, veiled behind a thin haze, was lingering on the edge of the horizon. I took the helm for a while, but every thing in nature looked so sleepy, that I returned to my couch, and gathering my cloak and blanket around me, submitted to the general destiny. I opened my eyes again about two o'clock, when I beheld Noureddin standing near the helm, praying in an audible voice, his hands stretched towards the stars, which were glowing in all their splendour above his head. The boat was still gadding slowly wherever the stream directed it: so turning away from the starlight, I again courted, and not in vain, the charms of forgetfulness.

CHAPTER XV.

Sistow—A Delusion—New Friends—Good Fortune—Greek Civility—Wallachian Merchants—Supper—Amicable Discussion—Saturday Evening—Wallachian Ambition—Language—Character—Indolence—Habitations—Habits—Agriculture—Mode of Living—Costume—Females—Ornaments—Origin—Produce.

The labours of our crew were recommenced at daybreak (Oct. 11), and at nine o'clock we came in sight of Sistow, which was still mantled in gossamer vapours. Here and there

the sunbeams pierced through the mist, and shone upon the spires of the minarets. Sistow is beautifully situated. A range of magnificent hills commences a league or two west of it, and extends a considerable way along the right bank of the Danube. The town, rising at the water's edge, winds its way up the undulations of the eminences, which seem destined by nature for the reception of clusters of human habitations. After ascending for a while, the houses are then lost, then they appear again higher up, the whole protected by a citadel, which crowns the summit. These hills are all well wooded, and extremely picturesque.

The Danube here presents a fine sheet of water; so deep, too, that four or five Russian merchant-ships were proceeding, without difficulty, towards Sistow. We met again several water-snakes swimming up against the current. At half-past three we came in sight of Rutschuk, to my infinite satisfaction, and, in two hours after, our boat was moored amidst a number of Russian, Turkish, and Greek merchant and fishing vessels of every size, which presented an appearance of considerable commercial activity.

My captain volunteered to accompany me to find out the agent to whose care the commander of the steam-boat had recommended me by letter. We walked for some time through the town without meeting any person who could give us information as to the agent's residence. When first I beheld Rutschuk at a distance with its numerous mosques and minarets shining in the sun, rising on a bold promontory from the edge of the vast expanse of waters formed by the Danube, I felt confident that it was a wealthy, populous, active, cleanly, and handsome city, which I should experience great gratification in examining. Never was my imagination more deceived. A more poverty-stricken, deserted, idle, filthy, ill-contrived town does not exist, I believe, even in Turkey. All the habitations, with the exception of the greater part of the shops, are literally turned outside in; that is to say, the streets on each side pre-

sent only lines of dead walls, without even a window to relieve their desolate appearance. The "fronts" of the houses are all, as an Irishman might say, "backwards," opening to a court-yard, which is entered by a gate.

In Spain the private residences are built in the form of a square, with an open space in the middle, but still fronting to the street. The streets of Rutschuk look like the ways through a fortress, nothing but wall on each side, except where the gates here and there interrupt the dull uniformity of the stone and mortar. I now, for the first time, understood the truth of the phrase, that the Turks were only "encamped" in Europe. This is literally the fact. Almost all the towns which I afterwards visited in Bulgaria, as well as in Romania, were constructed on the same plan, evidently with a view to self-defence, for every house was in itself a fortress.

At length we chanced to meet a Greek, whom my guide saluted in his own language. Upon the superscription of the letter being shown him, he said that he was very well acquainted with the person to whom it was addressed; but the agent's residence was at some distance from where we stood, and he refused to conduct us to it until the morrow. This specimen of indolence was too ridiculous not to betray its real motive. Of course I immediately produced a piastre, which without any further negotiation gave motion to his feet, and he led us through one or two streets to a gate, which he opened without any ceremony. We entered a large square, on each side of which were houses belonging to different families, including a public inn, in the balcony of which several Turks and Greeks were smoking and sipping coffee. One of the latter, a short, thick, cunning-looking fellow, dressed in my own way, saluted me at once in excellent French, and offered me his best services. I gave him the letter, and said he would oblige me very much if he could tell me where the individual lived for whom it was intended. He answered me by pointing out another

Greek, who, also dressed as a European, was sitting on the mat opposite to him. The letter was immediately read by the agent, who promised to show me every civility in his power. I felt quite relieved from the difficulty in which I had been placed, and, adding one to the party, enjoyed an excellent cup of coffee.

The Greek who first addressed me was the only person present who spoke French. He said that he had only arrived two days ago from Constantinople, and that if I were bound for that capital he would be happy to do every thing necessary to facilitate my progress. Here, thought I, is another striking instance of the good fortune which has attended me throughout my journey. I was wholly unacquainted with the Turkish and modern Greek languages; I travelled without a companion or a servant who might compensate for my deficiency in that respect; and yet, though my ignorance might have been followed by the greatest embarrassment, in a town where I was an utter stranger in every sense of the word, I had the good luck to meet with this man, who in a moment dispelled from my mind every apprehension of delay or inconvenience.

I had seen enough of the world to be able to perceive that my Greek was already calculating, within the interior of his own breast, how much he was likely to gain from an English traveller by this adventure. But I cheerfully accepted the offer of his services, well knowing that I must pay for them, and that perhaps I was destined to submit even to some degree of imposition. But civilities and attentions, rendered especially under such circumstances, are well worth their price. I explained to him that I was most anxious to continue my journey with the least possible delay; that it was necessary for me to engage a Tartar and the usual number of horses, and that if it were at all practicable I should wish to proceed that evening on the road to Constantinople. This, he said, was altogether out of the question, as no Tartar could supply me with horses

without a firman from the pacha, who was already shut up for the night in his harem with his family, and would not be accessible until eight o'clock the next morning.

Meanwhile the agent had my luggage brought to the khan, and having desired my Greek to thank the Ionians for their hospitality and kindness during my late voyage, I presented them with a gold ducat, with which they seemed perfectly satisfied, observing that they much regretted I was not to accompany them any further. The agent then conducted me to his own house, my Greek having promised to be with me at seven o'clock the following morning, in order to make all the requisite preparations for my journey.

I met at the agent's house four or five Wallachian merchants from Bucharest, who, under a cunning aspect, that seemed to inquire, "Can we gain a ducat or two out of this Englishman?" appeared, nevertheless, very agreeable men, and disposed to pay me every kind of attention. They all spoke a little French, seemed respectable in their way, and guests in the house, which I assumed to be a private sort of hotel for Franks. The room in which we sat was a large one, containing a divan, extending along two of its sides, which was spread with cushions, covered by white cotton cloth. Two ricketty tables were brought in, upon which, after a little delay, supper was served for the Wallachians and myself, our host, and three or four brothers, or other relatives, who lived with him.

Our first course was stewed mutton and cabbage, which, after three days' Lenten fare, I found very acceptable. Next came some fried fish, which was not bad either; then a piece of roast beef, so tough that it defied even Wallachian powers of mastication; and finally, a dish of boiled rice, mixed up with some curdled milk, which was not at all to my taste. Those viands were exhibited in pewter dishes, and we had each a pewter plate, a pewter spoon, and a steel knife and fork, which I considered as a decided improvement upon my late mode of living. We had for dessert some large flavourless grapes.

The wine was, to me, undrinkable; but a bottle of white rum was produced, which, mixed with water, compensated for the want of a better beverage.

While we were taking our coffee, my intended movements were discussed. My new friends had, as they said, lately arrived from Constantinople; and they assured me that I should find my ride over the Balkans a much more serious affair than I appeared to imagine. They had no doubt that by this time the mountains were covered with snow and ice, and as in addition to these refrigerators, I should most probably encounter piercing winds, that would freeze the blood in my veins, they agreed, in the first place, in condemning my cloak as wholly inadequate for my protection against the inclemency of the weather. They further unanimously recommended that I should purchase a cloth pelisse, lined throughout with fur, a fur cap, boots lined with fur, and a fur waistcoat. If, in addition to these articles, I provided myself with a *muff*, a mattress, a warm rug, a strong blanket, and a store of rum, I might, perhaps, hope to effect the passage in safety, provided I wore arms. When I confessed that I had neither sword, stiletto, nor pistol, they all held up their hands in astonishment, and exclaimed, that I should by no means omit to purchase a carbine, and a pair of pistols at least, before I set out, otherwise I should have no chance of escaping the savage banditti who infested the forests of Mount Hæmus!

The favourite book of my youth was Gil Blas; and I could not but feel a secret delight in recalling the philosophy of that unrivalled production to my assistance on the present occasion. I was, in fact, much amused by the combination in which they were all engaged, in order to practice on my simplicity. But I listened with great attention to every thing they had to say; though I could hardly refrain from laughter, when, as I fully expected would be the case, one produced a threadbare Russian pelisse, which he had *never* worn; another a pair of old jack-boots, lined with fur; another offered to dispose of the fur cap

which he had at the moment on his head; another brought forth an assortment of sabres and fire-arms, pressing me on the spot to offer a round sum, about fifty ducats, for the whole! I observed that I must take time to consider their very obliging propositions; being inclined, at all events, to negotiate for a pelisse, as I had reason to suppose that so much of the autumn could not have passed over without leaving its usual snows on the Balkans.

After supper, the tottering tables were removed, and the night being brilliantly fine, mine host and his friends and guests amused themselves in walking up and down the court-yard; some talking, some singing Greek songs, one playing on a flute, and another strumming a guitar. It being Saturday evening, they all appeared in a festive mood. I sat in the balcony, gazing upon the scene before me, and on the domes and minarets around shining in the moonlight, with a sort of feeling, which compelled me for the moment to doubt my own identity, transferred as I was thus suddenly from people to people.

Before we retired to rest there was a general muster of all the inmates of the house in the principal room, when the conversation happened to turn on the actual state of Turkey. The Greeks maintained that their nation was rapidly rising once more to the ascendancy which they formerly possessed in that part of Europe, and that as they were certain of the assistance of Russia, they had no doubt that they would be soon again masters of the whole of the old Greek empire. They said all this with a degree of confidence, which plainly showed that the subject had long formed a general topic of conversation in Wallachia, and that it was a theme by no means unacceptable to the ear of the autocrat. There is a Greek church at Rutschuk, which they told me was usually well attended.

The conversation then turned upon the history and actual state of the provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia, of which very little is known in England. As to the history of those pro-

vinces, it appears that, together with Transylvania, they formed part of Dacia, which was added to the Roman empire by Trajan. They were peopled principally from the Latin provinces. It was not the policy of Adrian, however, to preserve conquests so remote, and accordingly, in order to effect their separation from the empire, he destroyed the bridge which Trajan had constructed over the Danube. Thus cut off, they refused to yield allegiance to Commodus, and having been wholly abandoned by Aurelian, they were successively invaded by the Goths, and other northern tribes, with which they became so intermingled, that it is difficult to say to what race they now really belong.

Their language is a kind of Patois of the Latin;—thus, for Aqua they have the word Apa; for Angelus, Annel; for Bona, Buna; for Campus longus, Caemplung; for Domina, Domna; for Dominicus, Domnaste; for Debitor, Duter; for Herba, Erba; for Frater, Frat, and so on. Some historians maintain that the race and the language were originally Sclavonic; the affinity of the latter, however, to the dialect of the Romans shows that at least the Roman conquest exercised a powerful influence on the whole Dacian community.

"The Wallachian," says a German writer, treating of this nation, "is short in person, but of a strong compact muscular frame of body. The savage mode of life to which he is accustomed from his earliest infancy enables him to bear hardships with fortitude. Heat and cold, hunger and thirst, make no impression upon him. His features are strong and expressive, his hair dark and bushy. On the whole, his countenance is not disagreeable, and you may often find amongst this people, both men and women, as well as girls, of great beauty. They arrive early at maturity, yet frequently live to an advanced age. At the age of seventeen and eighteen, the Wallachian marries a wife who is seldom above thirteen; before he is thirty, he is a grandfather. The Wallachians are, in respect to character, sly, reserved, cunning, revengeful, and indolent. With the

greatest appearance of innocence, they understand well how to profit by every opportunity of overreaching their neighbours. Of their cunning and revengeful dispositions, examples occur every day. Indolence prevails amongst them, as in other uncivilized nations; it is, however, rather the failing of the men than of the women, who perform all the labour of the house, make clothes for the whole family, and frequently give their husbands much assistance in the labours of agriculture; whereas the men, after having discharged some of the most indispensable occupations of the field and of the vineyard, spend the remainder of their time in idleness. Their few wants are easily supplied, and, when this is done, they seek no more. The natural indolence of the Wallachians receives much encouragement from the frequent holidays celebrated by the Greek Church, which they usually spend in prayer, drinking, and sloth. To work upon these days would be criminal. They are much devoted to drink, and the Wallachian, in a few hours, will frequently consume in wine and brandy all that he has gained by the labour of the week. If he is so fortunate as to find a pipe or violin in addition to a full pitcher, he seldom ceases from revelry until he is quite drunk, and is carried home senseless. It rarely happens that many Wallachians are assembled under such circumstances without disputes and fighting, for they are very quarrelsome when drunk.

"The Wallachians are in the highest degree superstitious, but make no scruple of employing shocking oaths on every trifling occasion. The stupidity and avarice of the greater part of the clergy, who, in the ignorance of the common people, find a rich source of profit, contribute to strengthen the failings and depravity of their flock. The ignorance and want of cultivation in the inferior Wallachian clergy surpasses all belief; and there can be no doubt, that the first step towards improving the morals of the people must be a reform in that order.

"The habitations of the Wallachians are small and confined;

their towns are generally built of mud and timber, very seldom of stone. Their houses have seldom more than one room, besides which there is a small kitchen and an oven. The stable and other buildings which belong to a peasant's yard are universally ill constructed, low, and dirty; they keep their grain in pits, and sometimes, particularly the maize, in baskets of wicker-work, suspended on a pole some feet above the ground, and protected by a cover of the same manufacture, thatched with straw. They employ themselves but little in gardening, and, with the exception of a few vegetables irregularly planted, nothing is found in their gardens but fruit-trees, which are left to the care of nature.

"The internal arrangements of their houses are very simple. The furniture consists of the family bed, formed of straw, sacks, and coverlets, or, according to the wealth of the possessor, of feather-beds and bolsters, with covers ornamented with coloured stitch-work, which form a great object of luxury. Besides these, there are commonly a rustic table, benches arranged around the room, and one or two wooden chests adorned with rudely-painted flowers, in which their clothes and other treasure are kept. Some pitchers, plates, and dishes, are arranged or hung against the wall, together with pictures of Greek saints, before which lamps of coloured glass are sometimes suspended. The windows are very small, and the light is usually admitted through a piece of bladder.

"The indolence of the Wallachians, which they can best indulge in breeding and tending cattle, is the reason for their preferring this to all other occupations; and the hardships with which this mode of obtaining a livelihood is accompanied, rather induce them to follow this career. All the changes of weather, and all the privations to which the wandering life of the herdsman is subject in distant and uninhabited countries which he is forced to explore in order to find good pasture for his cattle, are easily born by the Wallachian, whose bodily

frame has been hardened from his childhood; and the exemption from labour which he enjoys, as he follows his flock, renders the difficulties he has to encounter still less irksome.

"The Wallachians direct their attention particularly to the breeding of sheep, of which a single individual frequently possesses above a thousand head. They usually sell the young rams, and the various kinds of cheese which they prepare in large quantities from the milk of the ewes, together with the wool. The old sheep, no longer serviceable for breeding, are then slaughtered. They likewise keep goats in large numbers, either mingled with their sheep or in separate flocks on the mountains covered with forests, and derive great profits from the skins, the tallow, which is particularly valuable, and the cheese made from their milk. The other branches of cattle-breeding are not neglected by them, and they rear a considerable number of horses, horned cattle, swine, and fowls.

"The cultivation of the field and the vineyard are occupations far less grateful to the Wallachian, and he only resorts to this mode of gaining a livelihood when the climate, or other circumstances, renders it impossible to devote himself to the breeding of cattle. He chiefly cultivates maize, a principal article of diet, because, from this species of grain, a greater return from a small quantity of seed may be more reasonably expected than from any other crop. The Wallachians do not attend much to the culture of other kinds of grain, but they cultivate vineyards pretty generally when they occupy situations fitted for wine; still, however, the produce of their fields and vineyards seldom exceeds their immediate wants; while, on the other hand, Wallachian cattle-breeders become possessed of property.

"Their mode of living is very simple; it chiefly consists of maise, from the meal of which they prepare a thick porridge, the polenta of the Italians, called by them *mamaliga*. From the same meal they also make bread, or rather a kind of cake, which, while fresh, is very palatable, but soon grows hard, and

scarcely fit to eat. Besides this, they use milk, cheese, fat, onions, garlic, fruit, green vegetables, and legumes, which they cook in the most simple manner. They eat little animal food, observing very strictly all the fasts appointed by the Greek Church, during which they abstain altogether from the flesh of animals. At these periods they prepare their food chiefly with water and salt alone. They drink much wine and brandy, which latter they distil both from grain and from plums in large quantities. The great consumption of grain for this purpose has given rise to repeated laws forbidding its employment in distillery.

"The clothing of the Wallachian varies in many respects, according to the district; yet, commonly, it may be described as follows: The summer dress of the men consists of a short coarse shirt with wide open sleeves, which reaches partly over the thighs, and hangs outside of the breeches. These are of coarse white cloth, very large, and descend to the ankles, and in summer are sometimes made of linen instead of woollen cloth. They wrap rags round their feet, and over them put a piece of raw leather, bound on with thongs, and thus secured to the foot and the leg above the ankle. This species of sandals, cut from the raw hide without any preparation, they call opintschen. The more wealthy wear short boots reaching to the calf of the leg, instead of the opintschen. Around the middle of the body the shirt is bound down by a leathern girdle, generally ornamented with brass buttons, in which they carry a knife, a flint and steel, and a tobacco-pipe; over the shirt is sometimes thrown a jacket of coarse brown woollen cloth. They wear their hair short, suffering it to hang down a little way in its natural curls. None but old men, or such as from their situation or office, as clergymen or *dorfrichters*, are particularly entitled to respect, suffer their beards to grow. Amongst the common people, this usually takes place after the age of forty, and such men are distinguished by the appellation of *Moschule* or grandfather. The head is generally covered with a white cloth or woollen cap, or a round flat hat. While the Wallachian is in

mourning for a relation, he never covers his head, let the weather be what it may. They carry a knapsack containing provisions and ne cessaries, suspended by a strap from their shoulders, and a strong stick in the hand.

"The women wear a long shirt, which reaches to the knees, ornamented at the breast and arms with coloured stitches. From a small girdle are suspended two aprons, one before and the other behind. These are somewhat shorter than the shirt, and are made of striped woollen cloth, bordered below with a fringe; over the shirt the bosom is often covered with a stomacher of cloth or leather. They also wear, particularly in winter, under their shirts, long wide drawers, and in the mountain districts cover their feet with the opintschen, but in the plains they commonly wear boots. The girls have no covering on the head, but their hair is plaited in braids, which are disposed on the head in the form of a cross, and fastened with pins. Married women wear head-dresses of white linen, and the richer part of them of muslin. The Wallachian women are very fond of ornament; they paint their cheeks red, and this, even amongst the poorest, is deemed essential to beauty. They often colour their eyebrows black, and wear ear-rings of different kinds; but the chief ornament amongst the rich consists of several necklaces of silver, or sometimes gold coins (instead of which the poor use base coins and glass-beads), strung upon threads, and suspended around the neck and breast. The number of them is indefinite, and they frequently reach quite to the girdle. The embroidery likewise upon their shirts and their many-coloured aprons is esteemed by them a constituent part of ornamental attire. Children, during the summer, wear only a long shirt reaching to the ankles, and there is no distinction of dress between the boys and girls. In the winter they are seldom better clothed, and are seen playing and leaping about in their shirts, in the midst of the snow. When they have reached their sixth or seventh year, they dress like men and women.

"In winter the Wallachian provides himself with a sheep-

skin cloak with the wool turned inwards, and furnished with a cape of fur instead of a hood, or he throws over him a white or brown cloth mantle, which reaches to the knees, and has a large hood, which is put over the head in bad weather: under the cloak he wears his usual dress. The women in the same way wear cloaks of sheep-skin reaching to the knees, and made with arms; the inside lined with wool, the outside adorned with coloured patches and coarse embroidery, and in the front brought together with laces and buttons."

The author just quoted assumes the Wallachian nation to be of Sclavonic origin, and, with great probability, contends that the Latin has been the engrafted rather than the original tongue. The two provinces were overrun by the Turks in the early part of the fifteenth century, after which period they became tributary to the Sultan, who assumed the right to nominate and depose the two princes by whom they had been governed. The rapid development of the Russian empire gradually brought it into contact with Mahometan power in those regions; and as the inhabitants almost exclusively professed the Greek religion, the emperor claimed the right of interference, so far as to secure to them the free exercise of their faith. This right was sanctioned by the treaty of Bucharest, which was signed in 1812, and the treaty of 1829, concluded at Adrianople (to which I shall hereafter advert), may be said to have placed the provinces completely under Russian protection.

The produce of the two provinces consists chiefly in wool, tallow, Indian corn, wheat, hides, juniper-berry, honey, and wax. Staves might also be manufactured there in great abundance, as well as silk and wine, to which the climate is peculiarly favourable. Vast numbers of sheep-skins are purchased there yearly by the Austrian dealers, who have hitherto engrossed the foreign trade of the provinces. An English house has lately been established at Bucharest, by Messrs. Bell and Anderson, whose enterprising character will probably give
to an extensive trade through the Danube and the Black Sea,
w h Wallachia and this country, in due season.

CHAPTER XVI.

Striking a bargain—Equestrian preparations—Greek *v.* Greek—Rutschuk—Valley of Repose—Gipsies—Dinner—Going astray—Cogitations—Bulgarian Girls—An Alarm.

I ROSE betimes in the morning (October 12), when I found my Greek friend already waiting to receive my orders. It was necessary for me to pay my respects to the chief of the Tartars, in order to arrange with him for a guide and for horses to take me to Constantinople. I was told that I might, with a little exertion, accomplish the journey in three days, and that, allowing a horse for myself, one for my Tartar guide, one for my luggage, one for the postilion, and one for relief, that is to say, five horses in all, I might easily obtain the whole for the sum of fifteen hundred piastres. I proceeded to a caravansery wholly occupied by Tartars, attended by my Greek, who pointed out to me their chieftain, in a balcony, smoking his pipe. He was seated at a table, and on the opposite side I discovered a countenance not unfamiliar to me, which turned out to be that of my late Tartar fellow-passenger, who had arrived here overland the evening before. Doubtless he had prepared his tribe for the approach of an Englishman, and accordingly the first principles of the negotiation were laid down upon a basis of three thousand piastres. Nothing less could be taken.

My Greek, who had probably also his slice out of the bargain, and who had instructed me the evening before that I ought to pay no more than the sum I have first stated, now suddenly went round to the other side, and declared that, considering all things, especially that if I could procure no horse, it would be impossible for me to quit Rutschuk, advised me, if I wished to conclude the matter speedily, to make an offer at once of the highest sum I meant to give. I then proposed two thousand piastres; but ultimately the sum agreed upon was

two thousand five hundred, about £25 sterling, which was to include all expenses whatever. Half was to be paid down; the other half at Constantinople. When it is considered that the distance from Rutschuk to the capital is about three hundred and fifty English miles, that I was to be attended the whole of the way by a respectable Tartar guide, who was to be responsible with his head for my safety, that we were to have several relays of five horses on the road, each relay accompanied of course by a postilion, that the Tartar was to defray all charges, and that after seeing me lodged at a hotel in Pera, he was to return to Rutschuk with a certificate of my arrival, and of his own good conduct on the journey, it must be admitted, after all, that the bargain was not unreasonable. When it was concluded, the chief undertook all the necessary arrangements about my firman, and promised that my horses should be ready in two hours.

In the mean time, I had to equip myself with a saddle, bridle, whip, straps and cords, and a pair of strong boots, all of which the Greek procured for me. It so *happened* that there was not a saddle or bridle ready mounted to be had in the town, except those which my Greek had himself used on his late journey from Constantinople, for which he had the modesty to demand four ducats. I was obliged to submit to his imposition, but I must do him the justice to say, that though very well inclined to extract as much as he possibly could out of my purse, he would not suffer any body to rob me in the ordinary way but himself. When I consulted him about the pelisse and pistol affair, he laughed outright. He had crossed the Balkans only a few days before; there was not a particle of snow upon them. As to the banditti, it was probable enough there might be some Bulgarian marauders in the forests, but they would never dare to attack my Tartar.

He then took me to the apartments which he occupied, where, with the assistance of an imp, whom he called his servant, he manufactured a couple of tumblers of egg-coffee, and

enabled me to make a tolerably good breakfast in what he denominated the European style. He took my luggage under his care, saw it carefully packed on one of my horses, and besides assisting me to get rid of my Wallachian friends—who, contrary, I must add, to the expressed wishes of my very worthy host, again pressed upon me a whole wardrobe of fur, old pelisses, sabres, and guns—exerted himself in every possible way to expedite my departure. With reference to the plague, he said that certainly some "accidents" had occurred at Pera; but that the contagion was principally confined to Constantinople.

Though fleeced a little by this fellow, I could not help being pleased by his superior intelligence, his activity, and his useful attentions. Nor did I think the less of him when, with a manly tear stealing down his weather-stained cheek, he entreated me to call upon his wife and little girl at Pera, to assure them of his safety, and to say that after performing his mission at Bucharest, he would speedily return home. He wrote down her address in my journal as follows:—"Madame Catherine Marcello à Arnout kioy à coté du l'Apothécaire sur la mer dans la maison du Nicolaki Afesso. S'appelle demoiselle Effrdani."

The horses having been saddled and all things prepared, about ten o'clock I and my Tartar and postilion mounted, and rode quietly through the town. The shops were all open, and exhibited a rich display of military saddles and bridles, belts and cartouche-boxes, gaily ornamented; of Persian carpets, Broussa silks, sashes, ataghans, pistols beautifully mounted in ivory and silver, pipes with every variety of amber mouth-pieces, umbrellas, Greek caps, scarlet jackets, yellow pointed slippers, gold-headed canes, fine cloths, woollen and cotton stockings, and every article of grocery, fruits, vegetables, meat, fowl, bread, fish, hardware, and jewellery. The floors of these shops were usually elevated above the level of the street, and the owners and their assistants sat inside upon the

floors, some working as tailors, some as saddlers, and artisans of the ordinary trades. In several of these shops, which were well stored, I saw nobody attending. They were quite open to the street, as when the shutters are taken down there is no glass window to prevent any person who chooses from entering.

I had already noticed this peculiarity to my Greek friend, who said that it was observable throughout Turkey, where those petty larcenies so common in other countries were never heard of. He added, moreover, that, perhaps the forests of Mount Hæmus excepted, I might travel alone all over Turkey, my portmanteau filled with gold, and unlocked, and that I should not lose so much as a ducat by robbery. His information on this point was perfectly correct. The Turks will gain as much as they can in making a bargain with foreigners, or with each other, but they never think of stealing money, or indeed property of any description.

As soon as we passed out of the town we put our horses to their speed, alternately trotting quickly, or galloping almost without interruption until one o'clock in the afternoon, when we reposed from the heat of the day in a valley admirably suited for that purpose. It was of considerable extent, surrounded on all sides by craggy precipices. A brook rushed rapidly through the middle of the valley from one of the neighbouring heights. A caravan consisting of twenty or thirty waggons, laden with wattles, mats, fruits, and merchandize of every sort, had already stopped here to take advantage of the coolness of the shade, and the freshness of the torrent, whose waters were delicious. Their oxen were drinking from the stream, or ruminating upon its banks. Groups of families belonging to the caravan were formed here and there; the men smoking, the women preparing their dinner round a fire, or washing linen in the brook, the children playing about and shouting. Other travellers who had rested their appointed time, amongst them some Turkish troopers, leading beautiful black Arabian horses, were pre-

paring to resume their journey. My Tartar and I sat down behind a waggon, which protected us from the rays of the sun, until our horses were sufficiently refreshed. We then galloped on as before.

Our road, which was only marked through the open country by the tracks of wheels and of the hoofs of oxen and of horses, passed over low hills and valleys, occasionally patched with brushwood. About three o'clock we stopped at a solitary Bulgarian khan, where we found a number of ragged peasants, with their families, drinking white rum and water under a shed. They all came forth, upon our riding into the yard, and in a fawning servile manner welcomed the Tartar. A mat was spread for us in a rude balcony, which was protected by a roof of reeds from the sun. While we were resting here, one of the peasants, who was intoxicated, though he had scarcely a fragment of shirt to cover his nakedness, his long hair matted by filth upon his forehead, and a long staff in his hand, approached as well as he could, to make our acquaintance. The Tartar took up his whip and lashed his feet soundly, until some of his companions came and took him away.

Two female gipsies, dressed in the usual costume of that mystic race, next appeared standing by our balcony. I could not discover whence they so suddenly came. They were not deficient in the browned ruby cheek, the black eye, and swelling bosom which distinguish the tribe. They bore also long staffs(1) in their hands, and evinced a desire to disclose to us our future destinies. But they spoke laughingly, as if they were convinced that they had very little chance of imposing upon our credulity. Upon the Tartar's returning their invitation with a shake of his head they went away, disappearing

(1) The peasant sometimes places his staff upon the back of his shoulders, grasping it tightly at the same time with each hand lifted as he walks. In this manner it affords relief to hi back and chest, and also supports his arms.

through the hedge which separated the yard from the neighbouring field.

A waggon was standing in the yard, which was hurdled in all round, and filled with a noisy multitude of cocks and hens on their way to the market. I had a most refreshing drink of spring water flavoured with rum, from a clean wooden bowl, after which our dinner was served to us in the balcony, consisting of black bread, hard eggs, very fine onions, and the best salt I had tasted since I quitted England. I asked for some grapes, but none were in the house, which seemed well stored with Indian corn hanging in bunches from the roof. I dined heartily, and with renovated energies galloped away as soon as our frugal meal was over.

The afternoon was delightfully fine, neither hot nor cold, but of that medium temperature, which makes the blood tingle in its circulation through the channels of the frame. Having been so long confined to vehicles of various descriptions, I enjoyed the free air, and the boundless greensward, over which I was riding. My horse too, though a poor miserable-looking hack, refreshed by a good feed and an hour's rest, cantered along in a spirited style. On starting I rode on before my Tartar and postilion, firmly persuaded that my horse knew the road to Shumla as well as either of them. For a while I heard them galloping behind me, but the sound ceasing to reach my ear, I looked back, and to my consternation beheld not a creature within the whole range of my horizon. I waited for a while, and then rode back two or three miles without meeting any body. I concluded that I had lost my road, and entered another beaten track, to which my horse, however, manifested several very intelligible objections. I took counsel with him, leaving the bridle on his neck, when he deliberately turned round, and followed his own course.

My mood of mind at that moment was by no means enviable. I had no means of ascertaining whether I was in the right way to Shumla, or whether, as I almost apprehended from

the alacrity of my horse, we were returning to Rutschuk. As I had missed my Tartar and postilion, whither had they gone? Would they ride forward to Shumla to inquire for me, or would they return to Rutschuk, satisfied with the sum already paid, in order to justify themselves by stating what was the truth, that my parting from them was my own act? They had all my luggage, and even my cloak; how was I to cross the Balkans, without any protection against the reputed inclemency of these mountains? They had, moreover, some little remembrances of my journey, which I had bought for my wife and children, the loss of which I believe I should have regretted more than any thing else. I possessed, indeed, enough of gold in my pocket to defray my expenses to Constantinople, but I knew not a syllable of the language spoken by the Turks, and was equally ignorant of that in use among the Bulgarians. How was I to inquire my way? How was I to make any body understand what I wanted, when it would be necessary to procure fresh horses, and even the scanty meals with which I must be contented on the journey? Was it quite safe for me to travel alone? and if not, how and where was I to meet with a new guide?

These questions passed rapidly through my mind, but I came to the conclusion that, at all events, I would go on. The country rose gradually into hills, which indicated that I should soon be in sight of the Balkans. I met some shepherds tending their goats, to whom I shouted the word "Shumla," and then pointing along the track in which I was riding, inquired by this gesticulation, if I were in the right road; to which they seemed to answer in the affirmative, by pointing the same way. This information removed a heavy burden of doubt and anxiety from my mind. The sun had already set, and twilight was fast fading away; but I allowed my horse to get on after his own fashion, trusting to a benignant Providence for protection, and consoling myself with the thought

that I was engaged in an adventure which seemed pregnant with interesting incidents.

My romantic anticipations were by no means dispersed, when, descending into a valley, I arrived at a fountain, round which several Bulgarian girls were assembled with pitchers. They seemed to wonder very much "what manner of man" I was, and I could not help admiring their beauteous large black eyes and dark hair, which fell in plats on their shoulders, ornamented with pieces of silver coin. Some wore similar ornaments in their ears, connected together by beads of coral. They were dressed in linen or flannel tunics, marked with a red cross on the left breast, to show, I presume, that they were Christians, and therefore not obliged to wear the veil. They seemed, however, extremely shy, though curiosity, which characterizes the sex in every climate, now and then tempted them to take a peep at the solitary stranger. I prevailed on one of those damsels to allow me to drink out of her pitcher; but as soon as they filled their vessels, which they did in a great hurry, they commenced a general flight.

I felt very much inclined to follow them, satisfied that they lived in some neighbouring hamlet, where I might spend the night, when I was alarmed by the sound of two shots, which rapidly followed each other, at some distance. Looking round towards the eminence from which I had myself just descended, I saw, in the increasing dusk, a horseman, galloping wildly, as if he were pursued by a whole troop of banditti. Holding his pistol in his hand, he directed his course towards the fountain, when, looking at me with a frightened aspect, his lips trembling, his forehead bathed in perspiration, he threw himself down from his horse upon the ground, where he sat for a few minutes perfectly motionless. It was my Tartar! I hardly knew him, so changed was the expression of his countenance, so disordered was his turban, and his whole dress, as if he had just fled from a field of battle. My postilion appeared soon after, lead-

ing the baggage horse, but the fifth was missing. It was soon explained, that the horse which he had ridden all the day fell on the road soon after our departure from the place where we had dined; that every effort was made to get him on his legs again, but that, after losing a great deal of time in the experiment, they were obliged to abandon the animal: the more so as, from my imprudence in hastening on, they found it necessary to come in pursuit of me. The Tartar's head was at stake, which he would probably have lost had he not fortunately overtaken me. I blamed myself for causing the man so much tribulation, though the occurrence was one of those mere chapters of accidents which now and then are to be found in the history of every man's life, be he ever so circumspect.

CHAPTER XVII.

A Boorish Group—Night Quarters of a Caravan—Shumla—An Intrusion—An angry Turk—Balkan Roads—Difficulties of the Way—Forests of Hæmus—Banditti—Terrors—Descent of the Balkans—Dinner—Karnabat—Gipsies—Catching a Tartar—A Fiery Bedroom—A decent Khan—Supper.

Having all refreshed ourselves and our horses at the fountain, we remounted in the bright light of the moon, which almost renewed the day. There was a balmy softness in the air which was quite luxurious; and as we galloped along I experienced a confirmed confidence in the goodness of that Providence to whose parental vigilance we are all so constantly indebted. We arrived at Rasgrad about eight o'clock at night, and stopped at an inn, where, as usual, we were shown to the open gallery which communicates with all the upper apartments: the lower being entirely secluded from observation, and occupied by the family. A room was as-

signed to our use, but it was fastened on the outside by a padlock, the key of which could no where be found. A foolish-looking clown, with thick lips and staring eyes, attempted to open the lock with an immense knife, but without effect. The master at length came, and forced the hasp out of the door, which then permitted us to enter a tolerably good apartment. We sat upon the floor, and took coffee, while a fresh set of horses were prepared for our journey.

At midnight, having galloped for nearly four hours without cessation, we arrived at a solitary hut, in which we espied a light. My Tartar generally contrived to have a rest and a pipe, at least, at that interval, and we accordingly dismounted. The door was upon the latch, and, going in, we found a great log of wood burning in the middle of the floor, round which five peasants were sleeping. A boy was awake, to take care of the fire. We sat down without any ceremony, and enjoyed the warmth of the chamber, as the night was cold. My Tartar, who was a fine-looking man, though somewhat bulky for a courier, had bound a silk handkerchief round his turban, to preserve it from the dust. Over the usual military dress he wore a large blue cloak, which he wrapped round his shoulders in the Spanish fashion. His pipe was a plain rod of cherry wood, with a red earthen head. Taking out his pistols and sabre, which were fastened within his cincture, he laid them on the floor, and proceeded to smoke, as if he felt himself quite at home.

One of the peasants, disturbed by the voice of the Tartar, who directed the boy to go and fetch a fresh pitcher of water from the well outside the hut, opened his eyes and looked at us with ludicrous astonishment. An expression of terror kindled gradually over his countenance when he beheld the pistols and sabre glistening in the light of the fire. He shrunk into a corner, where he sat upon his haunches, apparently incapable of comprehending where he was, or how he could best make his escape. He then woke his companions fear-

fully, who one after another gazed upon their unexpected visitors with a sort of awe, as if they were persuaded that it was all over with them, and we were come to sacrifice them without farther inquiry. They must have been marauders, for their own consciences were evidently the most immediate sources of their alarm. Having rested a while and slaked our thirst from the pitcher of cool spring water, we pursued our road, to the great delight of these boors, who were quite happy to get rid of us.

We rode for about two hours, when the night became so dark that we could hardly see each other as we galloped along. Perceiving some fires among brushwood, at a distance, we directed our horses towards them, and found several men and women sleeping near burning piles, under the shelter of the shrubs and brambles. In the dark ground behind was a large caravan of waggons and numerous oxen resting for the night. We were most hospitably welcomed by these people, who were immediately awoke by the salute of the Tartar. He seemed to be well known to them, and they placed mats for us by the side of their fire. We dismounted and sat down, when some cakes of excellent brown bread were brought. A whole one was put into my hands, and then a wooden keg was presented to me, from which I took a draught of the most delicious water I ever tasted.

We waited here until the dark clouds with which the sky was overcast travelled away, and the stars shone out. The Tartar had much to say to his friends. He did not forget to relate to them the story of our accidental separation, which induced them to look at me earnestly, as much as to ask, though in a kind manner, "How could you have done so?"

We were now at the foot of the Balkans, which, after mounting our horses, we began to ascend by the light of a few stars that twinkled dimly in the heavens. The road was rough and winding, but the horses seemed well acquainted with it, and the distant lights of Shumla, now glimmering on the

heights like a single taper, now scattered in various directions, cheered us through the difficulties of the way. We arrived at that celebrated town at four o'clock in the morning, amidst the barking of some hundred dogs, and rode to an inn, where we were immediately accommodated with coffee and apartments, the people being already up and stirring about the business of the day.

I had my rug brought up, and laid on the floor. Having then satisfied myself, by examining the panelled partitions of my chamber, that it had no communication with any other room, I locked my door, having previously entreated that the labours of a lad, who was pounding coffee in a mortar below, should be suspended. Placing my portmanteau at my head, I lay down much fatigued, hoping that I might have a few hours of refreshing sleep. I had scarcely slept an hour, however, when just as the light of day was coming in at my window, a door which I had not perceived at the head of my couch, opened, and a great Turk, half dressed, stepped over me. I presumed that seeing me there, he would not think of remaining in my room to disturb my repose. But I was very much mistaken; for, approaching the window, he sat himself down near it in an arm-chair, having ejected from the said chair very unceremoniously my coat, waistcoat, and suspenders, of which I had disencumbered myself. Then calling through the window to his servant, he ordered his hooka to be brought, and crowned his impertinence by giving way to a violent cough with which he was afflicted.

When the servant came, he could not, of course, open the door, as it was locked inside. The Turk was obliged to get up to open it, an exertion which annoyed him excessively. I had, moreover, the misfortune, on shutting the window before I lay down, to break a pane of the glass in endeavouring to close the frame, that opened on a hinge, of which all the nails were loose. Here was another theme for his anger, which became violent. Every person belonging to the house was

summoned to account for this occurrence, which was the more deeply resented, inasmuch as it was calculated, the morning being raw and misty, to increase the invalid's malady. I, at length, gave them to understand that I was the offender; upon which the Turk threw himself back in his chair, took the end of his hooka in his mouth, and bubbled away as loud as he could, determined to revenge himself by rendering it impossible for me to sleep. In this object he effectually succeeded. I continued prostrate, however, until seven o'clock, when I rose and breakfasted capitally on brown bread and a bowl of boiled milk. There was a waggon in the yard, filled with grapes, which a Turk was preparing to tread out. A tub was placed beneath to receive the liquor, in which state, before the process of fermentation begins, it is a favourite beverage all over the country at this season of the year. I went to the waggon, and selecting a cluster of the grapes, helped myself, looking at the same time round for some person to whom I might pay the price of them. The owner made his appearance with a very surly frown on his face; but when I tendered him some pieces of silver, he, with a very different expression of feature, not only refused them, but picking out two or three of the best clusters he could find, substituted them for the inferior one which I had chosen for myself.

We set out at eight o'clock in the morning (Oct. 13), slowly ascending the mountains. I had no opportunity of examining the fortifications which Hussein Pacha was said to have erected at the side of the town by which we had entered. On the side towards the Balkans I perceived no symptoms whatever of warlike preparation, though the abrupt precipices beneath which we rode for a while afforded the most favourable positions for defences that might, I should suppose, be rendered almost impregnable; as from the nature of the ground it would be difficult to bring artillery to bear upon them. Passing into the more open country, we found it pretty well cultivated; the people were gathering the vintage every

where, so that, during the whole day, we obtained abundance of fine grapes merely by asking for them. My limbs were a little jaded from riding so many hours at the rate we had hitherto travelled: but, as we were now constantly ascending, we were obliged to slacken our pace: I was therefore by no means so much knocked up as I had expected. My Tartar gave me reason to hope that we should arrive at Stamboul on the evening of the following day, provided we could meet with good horses.

The road through the mountains would certainly not have been deemed practicable for an English saddle-horse. It was simply marked over the natural rock by frequent use, no care whatever having been for one moment expended upon it, even for the purpose of removing the loose stones, or breaking down the more prominent masses. Sometimes we rode over a track polished like ice by the winter torrents, on which, when ascending, we were obliged diligently to take a zigzag course; when descending, to allow the animal now and then to slide at his own discretion. On other occasions, the near foot might be seen on a pointed rock, while the off leg was about to pounce into a hole, the hinder hoofs making the best of their way through boulder-stones, as if playing with them at marbles.

It seemed to me at first an improper hazard of life to attempt to ride over such a road as this, where the horse and rider, even going at the most stealthy pace, were every moment in peril of being dashed to the ground. But the animals, though in England the whole five would not be deemed worth as many pounds, were so well accustomed to the business which they had to perform, that, be the disposition of the track what it might, they never by any chance made a false step. Their intelligence, prudence, courage, and extreme watchfulness for their own safety, as well as for that of the lives intrusted to their keeping, were wonderful. No human being could have executed their office with the uniform success which attended

all their movements. So rapidly did they gain upon my confidence, that, on levels or even on declivities, I did not hesitate to follow my Tartar's example, when, with a view to recover the time lost in ascending, or to escape quickly from a pass through a dense part of the woods, whence banditti sometimes fire upon the traveller, he absolutely galloped over these smooth or broken masses, both equally dangerous, as if he were flying for his life.

Nothing in nature can be more beautiful than the variety, especially towards the close of the autumn, of the hues that distinguish the shrubs and trees which compose the forests of Mount Hæmus. On one side, as if for the purpose of ornament, an eminence rising gradually from the torrent-bed over which we rode, and extending towards the heavens, was clothed to its summit with the most magnificent shrubs, tinted with all shades of colour—light gold, russet brown, silver ash, pale green, scarlet red, orange, and the incomparable blue of the iris. Amidst these shrubs the convolvulus and other flowering creepers suspended their festoons of bells, rivalling the delicate white of the lily, or the transparent pink of the wild rose.

On the other side the thick forests sometimes below us, sometimes threatening to march down upon us from their tremendous heights, rank long grass, ferns and brambles, branches interlacing with each other, old trees fallen in all directions and scathed by the lightning, rendering them impenetrable, seemed, indeed, peculiarly fitted to be the haunts of robbers. The assassin has only to place himself behind the trunk of a tree, wait until the wayfarer appears in view, then deliberately take his aim, and he can hardly fail to bring down his victim. Pursuit is altogether out of the question. Retaliation would be equally impracticable, as the murderer could not be seen. The traveller who is best armed, as in this case my Tartar was, is usually selected for the first experiment. The discharge is the signal to the whole band, who are stationed at their posts along the edge of the forest to be ready to fire at the re-

maining fugitives; and then, when all danger of a contest is over, the work of plunder commences.

My Tartar and postilion were in a perfect fever during the whole time we were riding through these passes. We galloped the whole way, whether up or down the declivities. Sometimes the road was occupied by caravans, and we were obliged to mount narrow and broken pathways, which we found or made upon its edge. But even over these tracks, where there was scarcely room for the horse's hoof, we flew with a speed which must have betrayed their terror. I do not affect to say that I was myself altogether free from alarm; but I confess that I thought a great deal less of perils from banditti than from the rocks over which I was obliged to pursue my companions. It was emphatically one of those instances of which I have occasionally seen other examples in the course of my life, where, in order to escape visionary dangers, real dangers were incurred of a much more serious description.

Heated and fatigued with our steeple chase, we at length rested on the summit of the lofty range on which we had been travelling all day, in a hut formed of planks inserted perpendicularly in the earth, and roofed with tiles, inhabited by a solitary old man, who supplied us with coffee. In the evening we descended towards the lower ranges of the Balkans, which succeed each other like so many undulations, varying in height, but almost all destitute of trees, here and there speckled with brambles, sometimes covered with heath, but wholly unfit for any purpose of cultivation. My Tartar, therefore, had no longer any fears of banditti. We occasionally saw in the sheltered valleys considerable encampments of gipsies, but these wanderers excited no apprehension in his mind. Indeed, they appeared every where much more intent on enjoying the pleasures of music and dancing, or preparing their meals at the fires which were lighted near their tents, then in meditating attacks upon travellers. At the same time we prudently avoided making their acquaintance, being quite satisfied with

the distant view of their tents and fires, and the groups moving around them—objects which in every climate are so picturesque —and with the sound of their pipes, violins, hurdy-gurdies, and tambourines, intermingled with the regular stamping of the dancers, and the shouts of men and children, which echoed in joyful tones through the otherwise desolate mountains.

Our horses having behaved so well in conducting us without accident, and with such fearful expedition over the first and highest ridge of the Balkans, I urged the Tartar to stop and allow them to be fed at one or two hamlets through which we rode. But my entreaties were in vain. He seemed to have no feeling whatever with respect to the unfortunate animals, except to urge them on as far as he could within the shortest possible space of time. I insisted, however, upon justice being done to them, and dismounting at the first house, looking like an inn, which I met on the road, I refused to go further until the horses were provided with corn. He observed that, if the horses were to dine there, so also must I; a proceeding, however, to which I objected, as we were not then more than two or three leagues distant from Karnabat, a town of some importance in Romania. However, he gave orders for dinner. An unhappy hen, who was amusing herself sauntering about the farm-yard, was laid hold of by our landlady, who, having gashed the jugular vein with skill, dipped the body into boiling water, plucked off the feathers, and in about an hour presented the victim to me boiled to rags, in a wooden bowl, which looked so filthy that nothing could induce me to touch its contents. A wooden tray was also brought, with coarse dirty salt, half-baked black bread, and a rusty knife. I resolutely deferred dining until we should stop for the night at the town already mentioned. The Tartar took his usual meal of bread, hard eggs, and onions; and when he saw that I would scarcely even look at the fowl, he deliberately wrapped it up in some paper, and put it into the havresack, which dangled from his saddle

—"a very useless precaution," thought I, "for if you do not eat it yourself, I am quite sure that nobody else will!"

We remounted about seven o'clock in the evening. Our horses at first got on very well; but after exerting themselves for an hour or two, it became evident that the toils of the morning among the rough roads of the mountain had literally knocked them up. Even at a moderate pace we ought to have reached Karnabat at nine, but it was past eleven before we entered its gates, though we had seen the lights of the town the whole evening. I was a good deal fatigued, less from riding, which never affects me, than from the labour which it cost me to push my miserable horse forward. His limbs seemed to have lost all their vital supply of lubricity. Every step was a stoppage. I should have greatly preferred walking, if that had not been rendered impracticable by my Turkish jack-boots, with pointed toes, which, as well as the heels, were turned up, so as to give the sole the complete form of the segment of a circle.

However, I looked forward to the hope of finding good quarters at Karnabat, as most of the towns of Romania, being inhabited principally by Turks, are of a better description than those in Bulgaria, which I had hitherto visited. The proportion of Mussulmen in the latter province is not considerable, and is dispersed through Vidin, Nicopoli, Rutschuk, and Shumla. The great mass of its population consists of the Sclavonian race, who profess to be Christians, but who appear to have scarcely any houses of worship.

The southern valleys of the Balkans seem to be favourite abodes of the gipsies, who occupy them without any fear of disturbance. How these people, who neither spin nor weave, nor cultivate the earth, clothe themselves so well, and accumulate the abundance of vegetables, flesh-meat, fowls, and rum, with which they are always provided, is to me as great a mystery as the origin of their tribes, and the purpose for

which they are endowed with migratory dispositions, apparently destined to defy all the powers of civilization.

The conduct of my guide during the day did not tend to raise him very much in my esteem. Upon alighting for the night, I was not long in finding out that I had indeed "caught a Tartar." We stopped near a mean-looking house; upon the door being opened, I saw that it consisted only of one room, in which eight or ten persons were already sleeping, and an immense fire was blazing in an oven, in which bread was about to be placed. Had the information of my Wallachian friends, of fur-boot and pelisse memory, been at all correct with reference to the inclemency of the Balkans, I should probably not have very strongly objected to the neighbourhood of the oven. But as the fact was that, in crossing these mountains, I not only saw neither ice nor snow, but found it impossible even to wear my cloak, on account of the intense heat, which even at this hour of the night was but little mitigated, I refused at once to expose myself to the danger of being baked on one hand, and poisoned by the atmosphere of so many companions on the other. Besides, I perceived there no chance whatever of a good dinner, of which I really stood very much in need.

The moon was shining brightly in a cloudless sky, and after parleying for a while with my Tartar, who understood, or seemed to understand, very little of my Italian, I said that if he did not conduct me to a respectable inn, I should endeavour to find one for myself, and that moreover I should report him to his chief, for his behaviour. He declared that there was no other inn open in the town at that hour of the night, and that he would not go in search of one. Kindling his pipe, he sat down outside the door, and said that from that house he would not depart. In the mean time the owner went out and borrowed a feather-bed, which he displayed before me with great triumph; and he added that, if that would not do, he had even a magnificent hooka at my service, which he had

also borrowed for the occasion. I could not help being pleased with the kindness of this poor Turk, but no temptation whatever could induce me to enter the furnace which he called his house.

I walked up the street as well as I could in my boots, my whip in my hand, to see what I could do for myself. Some six or eight fellows followed me chattering, and one or two, going before me, seemed resolved to prevent me from proceeding further. I calmly applied my whip to their legs, and dispersed the whole group in an instant. After I had searched about in vain for a while, the Tartar at length came to find me, and seeing that I was inflexible in my purpose, he conducted me to a khan of the first class, where I was delighted to find some appearance of decency.

We knocked for a while before we were admitted, and we had some difficulty in finding vacant places on the divan, as the inn was crowded. But two Turks, in the most civil manner, yielded us their stations in the principal chamber, and adjourned for the remainder of the night into another room. My supper was served about half-past twelve. Poached eggs floating in oil were first brought, which I could not reconcile by any effort to my taste. A dish of boiled rice next made its appearance, together with a bowl of milk, which I found excellent. Pickles were appended to the rice, but I had no fancy for them; and then some hard eggs made their appearance, which constituted the principal part of my meal. I closed this operation with a glass of hot rum-and-water, after which, wrapping myself up in my cloak, I lay down on the cushion of the divan, and slept profoundly till seven o'clock the following morning.

CHAPTER XVIII.

My Companions—Kind Attentions—Famine—Annihilation of a Fowl—Living upon Nothing—Disturbance—Still Life—Consternation—A Desolate Town—Turks at Prayers—Dinner—Alarming Rumours—Chorlu—The Sea of Marmora—Silivria—Street Scene—A Factotum—News of the Day—Tartar Generosity—Negotiations.

My companions were all Turks, apparently of a very respectable class in society. Besides the divan, which afforded couches to six or seven persons, two others had mattresses on the floor.

There was no want of fresh air in the room, as several panes of glass were broken in the windows. Indeed one whole frame which was papered all over fell in during the night, and had the temperature of the external atmosphere not been peculiarly mild, one of my new acquaintances, over whose face the morning breezes were playing, might have suffered from the accident.

As soon as I emerged from the folds of my cloak, I became an object of general attention to these gentlemen. One presented me immediately with his pipe, and looked very much astonished to find that the first thing I did on opening my eyes was not an act of conformity with the universal custom of smoking. Instead of a chibouke, however, I ordered a napkin and some water, which was brought to me in a pewter dish, and after making my toilet in the best manner I could, I proceeded to write my journal. My memory being full of the incidents of the preceding day, I of course wrote with great rapidity, being much more anxious to set down all the matter, than to impart to it any form of style. They followed my movements with surprize, the more especially as my mode of writing the characters from left to right was the reverse of

their own, and they could not conceive how it was possible for me to create any character at all with the silver instrument which I held in my hand, and which borrowed no assistance from the ink-bottle. They smiled at each other as much as to say, "These Englishmen are the strangest beings in the world; they have ways of their own for every thing."

I unscrewed my pencil and showed them the mode in which it was constructed. Simple as it was they could scarcely be made to comprehend it. I very much regretted that I had not brought a few of these instruments with me, for the purpose of presenting them to such persons as these, whose civility and good nature deserved every return I could make. While I was performing my ablutions one would hold the dish, another the napkin; a third ordered coffee for me. Then the pipe was again and again offered. My objection to this grand luxury of Turkish life seemed to them unaccountable. Then my suspenders became objects of examination, as well as my moveable shirt collar, and my black silk cravat. When I finished dressing by putting on my blue cloth cap, they seemed to look upon my *tout ensemble* as a complete puzzle.

After breakfasting on a bowl of boiled milk, three or four eggs, and very good brown bread, I proceeded on my journey through the lower ranges of the Balkans. These mountains and valleys are almost wholly unpeopled. The few huts which we passed in the course of the day were of the most miserable description. The country is every where so barren that the human beings who are scattered over it, few though they be, have scarcely any thing to live upon. We rode on until the afternoon without being able to find any accommodation either for man or horse. The fountains were all dried up, so that we could not obtain even a draught of water, which would have been the more acceptable, inasmuch as the day was inconveniently warm. At length we came to a little brook, by the side of which we were delighted to sit down. The Tartar, though much heated, stooped down and drank copiously from

the spring with impunity. I did not dare to follow his example until I had rested a while, when he produced a bottle of rum. I prevailed on him and the postilion to empty it of a portion of its contents, after which I filled it with water from the brook. The mixture then was not only safe but truly delicious. It renovated my appetite, which had been sickened by long fasting and hard riding, but what was there to eat?

My cunning Tartar then brought forth from his havresack the much-despised, the abhorred fowl of the previous evening, together with a loaf of bread and a paper of salt! After a little reflection upon the vanity of all human resolutions, I was prevailed upon to sever a wing from the breast, and to taste the inside meat, to which I could discover no just objection. I tried a similar experiment with the other wing, which I was forced to admit to be equally free from any fair ground of impeachment. Both these members being pretty well dealt with, I thought there could be no harm in extending my acquaintance to the breast, which disappeared in due time. The legs next became objects of curious inquiry, and fully answered my new-born expectations. The side-bones and "merry thought" pleasantly reminded me of the "soul," which soon established to my entire satisfaction the truth of the Pythagorean doctrine, by migrating under my own superintendence into a different body. Finally, the back yielded up its treasures, and though I was in the land of Mahomet, I could not help being Catholic enough to pay my compliments to the "pope's nose." When I thought of my late cackling friend, who sauntered about with so fine an air of self-complacency, now reduced to such a wonderful state of disorganization, I convinced myself that her ladyship must have been guilty of some dreadful deed in this world or some other, which caused her to be thus decapitated, drawn, and quartered, I may say annihilated with a degree of expedition unprecedented in the "annals of crime."

My guide, as usual, contented himself with hard eggs. How

the postilion fared it was no business of mine to inquire. I saw him at a distance, chewing something. He had plenty of water, at all events, and so had our horses; who, moreover, feasted on some brambles. I began to think that Turkish horses have the peculiar faculty of living upon nothing; and as they made no objection to going on, I thought it would be words thrown away to attempt to persuade them of their folly in resolving to gallop over these boundless wastes without so much as a straw in their inside. A fresh relay at nine o'clock, which we procured at a wretched hamlet, enabled us to pursue our journey rapidly the whole night; the moon lighted our way until the morning came, and disclosed Adrianople in the distance.

From the various descriptions which I had read of this city, second only to Stamboul itself, I had expected to find it characterised by a considerable degree of splendour. The cupolas and minarets of its numerous mosques undoubtedly do afford to the traveller, for some time before he enters it, ample grounds for believing that he is about to visit an important, well-inhabited, and flourishing town. But though not wholly disappointed, this expectation is much attenuated by the time he reaches his khan, after riding through the principal streets, which, beyond the usual variety of shops, supply no materials for admiration.

I was feverish after my long uninterrupted ride, and mingled cold water copiously with my coffee. The Tartar seemed to have no intention of resting; but I insisted on being shown to a chamber, where I was determined on remaining for five or six hours, even if I could not sleep. By way of precaution I discarded all the pillows and cushions which I found in the room, as they were by no means inviting; and spreading my rug on the floor, with my carpet-bag for a pillow, I enjoyed, for about two hours, a most delicious slumber.

A rascally boy then came to knock at my door, which I had contrived, very much to his astonishment, to fasten on the

inside. I pretended not to hear him for a while, suspecting he was a messenger from my more villanous Tartar. But he knocked and pushed and kicked at my barricades, until he succeeded in forcing the door a sufficient distance from the jamb to enable him to take a view of my person. This was impertinent. I therefore got up and let him in. Whereupon I laid my whip upon his shoulders until he was very glad to make his escape by jumping down a whole flight of stairs. The chatter of customers in a butcher's shop immediately under my window, the noise of people walking and talking in the street, each group of gossips seeming to have a particular fancy for stopping in my neighbourhood, the sound of ungreased waggon-wheels, creaking over the rough roads below, the bellow of oxen, and the occasional shouts of children, all conspired to assure me that further forgetfulness was, for that day, out of the question.

However, I continued in the attitude of repose, and as I could not keep my eyes shut I amused myself in observing the still life of a tailor's shop opposite, which appeared to be the favourite lounge of all the idlers of the town. The master and three journeymen were seated in the Turkish fashion, which tailors have adopted in every age and clime. Three visitors took their seats also on the board, smoking their long pipes, and looking on with profound gravity at the perpetual passing and repassing of the needles and threads through the cloth, which was destined in due season to become a waistcoat or a pair of trousers. Not a word escaped any of the party. A voluptuous, well-dressed, fine-looking man, with a long gold-headed cane balanced in one hand, and his immense pipe in the other, next made his appearance, He could not go by the shop without "looking in." Kindling his pipe, he also took his station on the board, and while his charge of tobacco lasted, seemed the happiest of mortals. When the last puff expired he quitted his seat, walked down the street, paid a visit to a tinman, smoked another pipe, came back, sat down

again in the tailor's shop, where he found the whole party undisturbed, filled his pipe again, exhausted it, and then seemed fairly at a loss to know what he was next to do. He looked up the street, down the street, went out, came back, stood a few minutes at the door in a state of listlessness, within a degree of petrification, and, at length, resolutely disappeared.

Being somewhat refreshed, I proceeded to what I should call the kitchen, but which the Turks treat as a coffee-room, where several Adrianopolites were assembled, sipping their universal beverage, amidst clouds of their fragrant tobacco. Here I learned, very much to my consternation, that the Russians were in the Bosphorus, preparing to take possession of Constantinople. I inquired by what means this intelligence had arrived, as when I left Vienna nothing of that kind had transpired. The answer was, that a courier from the English embassy had just passed through on his way to Semlin, and that it was expected that England would immediately declare war against the Emperor. As all this was conveyed to me in broken French and Italian, I concluded at first that I misunderstood what was said, and that they were speaking of the events of 1833, not of the present year. But I was positively assured that the Russian fleet and troops had arrived a few days ago in the Bosphorus, and that unless England should in time prevent them, they would soon be the masters, not only of the capital, but of all Turkey. While this conversation was going on they gathered gradually around me, and expressed themselves quite anxious to know whether I thought that my countrymen would really come to their protection. They appeared to despair of being able to do anything in their own defence, and even accustomed to the idea of resigning themselves to Russian supremacy, unless England interposed in their behalf. I expressed my confident hope that the intelligence was at least premature; but if it were true, I conceived that not only England but France also could hardly contemplate such proceedings with indifference.

Our horses having been announced, we took our departure at noon, and arrived at Burgas at four o'clock. This town has more of a European aspect at a distance, than any I had yet seen in Turkey. It boasts of several mosques, and other public buildings of great extent, which give it an appearance of grandeur. But on strolling through the streets I found them almost a wilderness. The edifices which I had expected to see inhabited as palaces, or used as public institutions, were abandoned to the winds and rain. The fountains, which in a former age had been beautifully decorated with marble, were thrown down and neglected. The cloisters of the mosques, which in one or two instances were upon a most magnificent scale, had become the safe abode of wild cats and dogs, owls and ravens, whose croaking added not a little to the desolation of the scene. The mosques were all out of repair.

A boy proclaimed, from the top of a minaret, in the usual terms,(1) the hour of evening service while I happened to be at the gate of one of these temples. It was immediately opened. Eight or ten wretched-looking devotees emerged from different quarters of the cloisters, washed their feet at the ruinous fountain, and, leaving their slippers outside the door, entered the mosque. I did not deem it prudent to follow their example, as I was alone.

But I stood unmolested at the door, which remained open. Lamps, like those we use in illuminations, were lighted, suspended from the roof, almost low enough to touch the head of a man standing. The thin congregation were arranged in a semicircle, and all joined aloud in prayers, in tones not unlike those in use among the Jews, but without being quite so boisterous, and with every external appearance, at least, of profound devotion to the great Father of the universe, towards whose abode in heaven, their eyes were constantly directed.

(1) *La Allah ila Allah, Muhammed Resoul Allah* (No God but God, Mahomet Prophet of God).

I dined on rice and haricot mutton, which, by the way, I had great difficulty in compelling my Tartar to order, as he would have preferred limiting my fare to eggs, which cost less money. He was a most penurious caterer, and if by inflexible firmness I had not gained an ascendancy over him, he would have starved me through the whole journey. I mention these things, in order that future travellers in Turkey may be prepared to adopt the same course—the only one that will satisfactorily carry them through the difficulties attending a journey in that country. I think it may be assumed as a general principle, that though your personal safety is assured in the hands of a Tartar, your digestive organs will not have much reason to thank him if he can help it.

While I was engaged at my humble meal, several persons, as usual, came to witness my operations. A meat dinner appears to be in Turkey a public exhibition; but I must do my spectators the justice to say, that the chief attraction of the scene was the national character of the principal performer, whom they treated with the utmost respect. I began to feel myself somebody of distinction, and to have doubts of my personal identity, as all my habits and tastes were formed amid the shades of life, wherever I could find them. But here I was invested with a character which seemed, in the opinion of the Turks, to place me at an immeasurable distance above themselves on the scale of existence. They saw in me—a simple, dusty-coated, jack-booted, unshaven, travel-stained equestrian—nothing but my country, of whose power to accomplish whatever she resolves to do in any quarter of the world, they appeared to entertain the most entire conviction.

The report of the Russians being at Constantinople was here repeated by every tongue. It was added, that a conspiracy had broken out there about a fortnight before, that there had been much fighting in the streets, that Pera had been again laid waste by flames, that the sultan was a prisoner in the seraglio; and that the imperial flag of Russia was waving over

the Seven Towers. These additional circumstances seriously affected the obstinacy with which I had hitherto treated the whole story as a fabrication; I even began to think whether I ought to proceed any further; as, if the news thus thickening upon me were true, a solitary Briton would have little chance of safety within the walls of Constantinople. However, I resolved to go on. As I was mounting my horse, several of my new friends pressed their hands on my shoulder in a warm and even affectionate manner, exclaiming, in energetic terms, "England and the Sultan at Stamboul—the Russians *in the sea!*" There was a slight "hurra!" when we rode off; and one of the Turks accompanied me through the streets, pressing his hand upon my knee. The excitement of this scene rendered me extremely anxious to learn the real state of affairs at the capital. My host had procured for me, without any solicitation on my part, the best horse he could find at Burgas—a fine Arabian, as gentle as a child, as fleet as the wind, and almost as indefatigable.

We rode, without cessation, through the bright night for eight hours, and arrived about three o'clock in the morning at Chorlu, where I was shown into a filthy room in an outhouse, as I had no fancy for sleeping in a stable. I lay down upon a mat on the floor, and slept soundly until seven, when, after a good breakfast on eggs, brown bread, syllabub, and grapes, which I found here remarkably fine, we resumed our journey with fresh horses, very much inferior to those we had during the night.

The morning was misty, but the sun soon shone out, and my heart bounded with delight, when on galloping along the ridge of an eminence, I beheld, glittering in the distance on my right, the waters of the sea of Marmora. They appeared through the refraction of the misty air as if they were in the sky, but the white sails stealing over their surface convinced me that I was under no delusion. Those waters would soon mingle with the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean with the

Atlantic, which washed my native shores. Some of those sails were most probably lately from England, or now returning thither. These are the associations which make an Englishman feel every where, when he approaches the sea, as if he were once more at home!

Our horses being very sorry animals, we were obliged, after the first hour or two, to ride at a snail's pace. Silivria, with its picturesque castle and fortifications reposing on the vast blue lake of Marmora, was in sight all day, but we did not arrive there until two o'clock in the afternoon. The town was filled with Turkish soldiers, dressed in the new uniform of the country—blue round jacket, vest, and trousers, the red Greek cap with blue silk tassel, strong squared-toed shoes, and white cotton stockings. They presented a most unmilitary appearance, and I concluded at once, from the reports with which my mind had been filled, that they were flying in dismay from Constantinople.

On dismounting at a caravansery, which was midway down the principal street, I was conducted to an open balcony, where mats were spread. The scene before me was not magnificent. The street was shaded by a few large trees, planted on each side. You may imagine how it was paved, if you have ever seen a street in London when the pavement is *taken up*. A stream of muddy water ran through the middle, leaving in its course a pool near a dunghill, on the top of which an old pelican was strutting, apparently the master of that position, much to the envy of a poor hen, who was looking up at him wistfully, and also of a cat, who seemed to be thinking how she could best dislodge the usurper. But he was on his guard against both his enemies, now looking down on one, now on the other, fiercely.

Two little pug-dogs were busy at a game of romps, running here and there, grappling with each other, rolling each other over, biting the back of each other's neck, leg, or tail, without hurting it, barking in well-feigned passion, the fugitive

turning on the pursuer, who, in his turn, affected a retreat. Some sturdy cocks were gadding about, crowing at intervals, to remind the world of their importance. Geese and ducks frequented the pool, and every time a cock crew they gabbled in chorus. The sound made the pelican tremble on his throne.

Seated on a stone near a gateway was a genteel well-dressed Turkish boy, afflicted by a nervous affection in the face, which every two or three minutes drew up the right corner of his mouth close to his ear. His whole occupation was looking at me, an occupation which detained him on his stone three hours without a moment's interruption. A little way down the street was the tomb of a saint, a circular edifice, roofed with wood, and railed all round; upon an elevated platform within, the holy man was laid out in the dress in which he died a century ago. He presented as yet no visible signs of decay, which proved his title to canonization!

An Italian, half idiot, half knave, wretchedly attired, the factotum of the caravansery, introduced himself to my acquaintance, and asked me if I were not much fatigued, offering at the same time his services to procure me some sea-water, which he strongly recommended as an application of sovereign power to any part of my frame that might have been affected by the saddle. Although somewhat jaded, I had no occasion to accept his advice, though I should have been extremely glad to dip in a warm sea-bath, if such a thing were to be found in Silivria. Nothing of the sort was to be had, but there was a vapour bath, in which I might be shampooed if I thought fit. But the sense of suffocation with which that operation is attended, forbade the experiment.

I inquired the news from Constantinople. "All quiet."—"What! no revolution?"—"Revolution! O yes; that was all over."—"And the Russians have come to Constantinople." "Yes; the Russians came, and have gone again, signor!"—"How long is it since they went away?"—"A year ago, signor."—"A year ago! what do you mean?"—"I mean

two years ago, signor."—"What are all these soldiers about?"—"Some are getting shaved, signor."—"Poh! I mean where are they going?"—"I saw two of them just now going to bed, signor."—"But whither are they marching?"—"Nowhere, signor, for they are all boys, and have not learned to march yet."—"Where have they come from?"—"Stamboul."—"Oh! I see you are a Turk, though you have not put on the turban."—"Sometimes a Turk, signor, sometimes nothing at all."—"What are these soldiers about?"—"Do you see these men coming up the street, signor, one of them with half a sheep on his back?"—"I do."—"Well, signor, those men are about to get their supper."

Finding that I had no prospect of extorting any political information from this addle-pated Italian, I engaged his services in the culinary line, desiring him to proceed forthwith to the cook's-shop, and get me some stewed mutton for dinner. He fled, delighted with his mission, already contemplating, with such an eye as his mind possessed, the probability of there being fragments which might fall to his share. He returned immediately, however, rather downcast, followed by my Tartar, who, with an effrontery too ridiculous for anger, assured me that not a morsel of mutton, or of meat of any kind, was to be had in the town, the troops having consumed the whole stock of that article in the trade. I directed their attention to a butcher's stall opposite, where two men were engaged cutting up, or rather cutting *down*, a sheep with a sabre, and to another shop in the lower part of the street where similar operations were in progress. "Those sheep," said the Tartar, "are all bought up for the army, which is going to Adrianople: I can get nothing for you but some eggs."

I rose from my mat, and bade them attend me to one of the shops which I had noticed, where, through the medium of the Italian, no unwilling interpreter on the occasion, a negotiation was immediately concluded upon the subject of a leg of the said mutton, which, being separated from the other members by

a sabre, was taken possession of by my accomplice, who triumphantly posted away with it to the cook's-shop at the further end of the street.

CHAPTER XIX.

A White Cock—Russian Agency—Specimen of Cookery—Dining in State—Departure from Silivria—Mahometan Causeway—Perilous Roads—Knowing Horses—First View of Constantinople—Advantages of its Position—Extent of its Capabilities—An abstracted Goose—Entrance of the Capital—Pera—Vitali's Hotel—The Plague—Character of the Malady—Armenian Funeral—Associations—Funeral of a Greek.

I SAUNTERED about Silivria for some time, amused by the novel and animated scene which it presented. Several large charcoal fires were made up in pans in the street, on which kettles containing pieces of meat, onions, and other vegetables, were boiling, surrounded by groups of soldiers, who fanned the fires occasionally with a turkey's wing. Here a baker was as busy as he could possibly be, serving out cakes of bread, just taken from the oven, to soldiers who passed in single file before his window. A beautiful white cock was a conspicuous character all day: he seemed to think that the whole of these preparations were going on for persons very much inferior to himself in all the requisites of dignity. Flies swarmed in all directions. The balconies of the caffinés were filled with Turks, who as usual sipped their nectar, smoked, and continued for hours gazing at vacancy. I was honoured by a look from a Mussulman who was idling about like myself, one hand in his breeches pocket, while the other wielded his pipe and a switch. A boy, walking along with a pitcher of water on his head, seemed also very much astonished at my appearance in Silivria, a feeling in which he was joined by a shoe-

maker, who was taking home a pair of mended slippers to a customer hard by.

A fruitman seemed to be making his fortune amongst the recruits, to whom he had already disposed of five or six large baskets of very fine fresh grapes. He had still a few clusters remaining, which I purchased for a small silver coin equivalent to about twopence of our money. Even out of this he gave me some change in copper, which I presented to a decent-looking beggar-woman who was going about from shop to shop veiled. A string of camels laden with merchandize, and as usual led by a donkey, entered the town from the Constantinople road, their loud bells tinkling as they paced along. They lay down in the middle of the street while their drivers went in search of refreshment. Here and there the merry tones of the xebeck were heard from latticed windows.

While I was thus roving about, one of a group of soldiers who were sitting on a wall addressed me in good French. He turned out to be a Corsican, who, by some vicissitude of fortune, was enlisted in the Mahometan service. From him I learned that Constantinople was perfectly tranquil—that no tumults had recently occurred there—and that the Russians, as he expressed it, had "not yet" possession of Constantinople, nor had they "yet" even returned to the Bosphorus. He placed such an emphasis on his *pas encore*, that I instinctively assumed him to be a Russian spy. There can be no doubt at all that Russian agency is at full work in every part of Turkey; and that the stories which I heard on the road were the inventions of men well paid for propagating them, under the impression that, by means of that kind, Mussulmen will become reconciled, by so often hearing of Russian invasion, to the ultimate result of Russian supremacy. But this will be found a most serious mistake, if I have read the Turkish mind with any thing like critical accuracy.

By the time I returned to my balcony I fully expected that my dinner would have been there before me, but no symptom

of it was perceptible. I called the factotum to account, who assured me that it would be ready in a few minutes. I waited for half an hour, when I sent him to make inquiries. He returned with a question, how I wished it to be done? I desired it to be plainly boiled, and sent to me in its own gravy, without any rice or oil. He came back, after the lapse of another half-hour, with a piece of the meat in his hand, by way of a sample for me to taste, and say whether it was boiled enough! I objected to touch this precious fragment, which he had dug out of my leg of mutton with the dirtiest fingers I ever beheld, and directed the dish, such as it was, to be served without further delay.

At length the mutton made its appearance in a wooden dish, without any accompaniment of any kind! There was not even a grain of salt. The cook ran off in one direction, the Italian in another, and, in about a quarter of an hour, the latter returned with a little coarse salt in a bit of greasy paper. Then there was no bread. Off scampered the Italian to a baker's shop, whence he brought back a smoking hot roll, which he put into my hand. Meantime my Tartar came to claim his share of the spoil, which he by no means deserved. I cut out some slices, however, for myself with his knife, and gave him up the remainder. My repast was soon over, but, after all, not unsatisfactory, concluding with coffee and grapes. I was glad to see that something continued in the wooden dish for my faithful auxiliary, for which he waited with a keen eye, but at the same time with exemplary patience. This dinner-scene passed in the balcony, open to all the street; and I had the felicity of being closely observed, during the whole transaction, by a group of gaping recruits and ragged children.

We found some difficulty in procuring four horses at Silivria; at length, about seven o'clock in the evening, we mounted a set of animals of the most wretched description, already fatigued, as I afterwards learned, by a long journey from which they had rested only a few hours. We set out by

the light of the moon, and, in about an hour, reached a very handsome khan, where we took coffee. We then proceeded along the beach of Marmora, the murmur of whose gentle waves, borne on the fresh atmosphere of the sea, fell upon my heart like a spring shower on the parched earth. At midnight we arrived near the once magnificent series of bridges, which, in a former age, were erected over a wide arm of the sea, and considerably shorten the road to Constantinople. Clouds having set in and darkened the night, a thunder-storm and violent rains came on, which compelled us to take shelter in the gateway of an inn at the foot of the principal bridge. We dismounted and rested here until four o'clock, when we again proceeded on our journey.

From these bridges to Constantinople a causeway has been constructed upon the plan of the ancient Roman roads. But, like the bridges across the arms of the Marmora, it has fallen into such a state of ruin as to become infinitely more a source of danger than of convenience to the traveller. It is as bad as the worst parts of the track over the Balkans. Had the sultan taken pains to render his capital inaccessible to cavalry on the side of Silivria, no engineer could have broken up the causeway, which in some places is the only road, with more skill, with a view to render it perilous, than time and shameful negligence have done throughout the whole of the line. Five hundred or a thousand men, employed for a fortnight, would, at a trifling expense, restore it to its pristine solidity and beauty. But the genius of decay seems to have paralyzed, for the present, the wonted energies of the Turkish people.

The soil through which this causeway runs is in general a soft clay, upon some more adhesive strata, which do not rapidly absorb the humid atmosphere of the neighbouring waters. The consequence is that when heavy rains have fallen, the earth becomes so slippery that it requires the greatest care on the part of the rider to preserve his horse from slipping at every step, when he is not on the causeway, which for the greater

portion of it is absolutely impassable. My Tartar, a bulky man, was seated on a wretched pony, which came down three or four times. Once the animal lost footing for both his hinder legs, and stuck so firmly in the mud on his haunches that the Tartar tumbled backwards head over heels. He got up in a fury and assailed the postilion in such a storm of passion, that I thought he would have ended by shooting him. However he was content with compelling the man to give up his own horse and mount the pony.

In a few minutes after down came the unfortunate postilion in a marsh, whence we had great difficulty in extricating him, covered all over with mud. I held a tight rein, and though my Rosinante stumbled at every fourth or fifth step, I had the good fortune to escape the general destiny. Even the baggage-horse was tripped up repeatedly, falling sometimes on his haunches, sometimes rolling quite over on his back, his legs dancing in the air. Whether riding on a level, ascending or descending the numerous hills which intervene between the bridges and the capital, the peril was the same. The horses seemed painfully conscious of the difficulties which they had to go through, and whenever they could get upon the causeway they preferred it, picking their steps through the stones with marvellous ingenuity. To the less experienced traveller, however, the change appeared to be only "from the frying-pan into the fire."

At length we entered on a more sandy track, and rode with less toil until the day returned; when, from the top of the highest eminence we had yet ascended, we beheld at three leagues distance below, the Ottoman capital, still reposing in the twilight of early morning. The east soon after began to redden, and the sun rose in all his Asiatic glory over the mountains behind Scutari, which almost touched the sky. Their tabled summits were already spread with cloth of gold, and clouds of fiery dust were rolling around, as if raised by the march of armies tending towards that splendid plain for

encampment. The crescents and spires of the white minarets, the tall green cypresses, the minarets of nature, greatly excelling the others in the solemnity of their beauty, shone out in the descending beams. The venerable watch-towers and the countless domes of the mosques were all illumined, and then the castellated battlements, caravanserais, bazaars, and palaces, extending in a long line to the waters of the Marmora, which reflected the blaze. Seen at that moment of enchantment, Constantinople, distinguished from all other European capitals by its oriental architecture, whose filagree Arabesques became transparent in the light, and rising from amidst groves and cemeteries and gardens, where the foliage and the flowers of summer were still in bloom, looked less a reality than the vision of some Persian tale.

It was unnecessary for my Tartar to point downwards and say, "There is Stamboul!" The capital of the Constantines has no rival upon this planet of ours, in external appearance, at least, and in the peculiar advantages of its position. Having free access to the Mediterranean through the Hellespont, it may with every possible facility defend itself at the Dardanelles from a maritime force, and having shut its gates at that point, may withdraw to the Marmora, the Bosphorus, or the Euxine, repair there its ships, build new fleets, equip and abundantly provision them from a populous and fertile territory, and rush out again upon its enemies, with an overwhelming force. Or if the chieftain who is master of Stamboul choose not to run the further risk of maritime war, he need only put the key of his gates at the Dardanelles in his pocket, turn his men of war into merchant ships, and find employment for them in trading along the coasts of Turkey, Asia Minor, the whole of the borders of the Black Sea, to which the silks of Broussa, the carpets and brocades of Persia, the rice, and fruits, and corn of all that territory, and the riches of central and southern Russia, are brought.

If not content with the field of the Euxine, he may extend

his commerce, without a single convoy, along the Danube to Wallachia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Servia, and Austria, attracting within his reach, in exchange for the productions of the East, the spoils of all Germany. When the Danube shall be united with the Rhine, by means of the canal now about to be formed, the ruler of Constantinople, though at war with Syria, the Barbary States, Egypt, Greece, France, Spain, England, and the two Americas, may not only live in safety within his castles, but carry his trade to the very verge of the British Channel, fearless of all the naval powers in the world!

While I was indulging in these fine speculations, my reverie was turned into uncontrollable laughter by a lad whom we overtook, riding behind a stately Turk, having at his saddle-bow a bag, from which a goose was looking out. The picture was an odd contrast to my airy dreams, and was not a little heightened when the winged prisoner, effecting his escape, ran off towards the home from which he had been just abstracted. The Turk was discomposed; the lad went off in chase of the goose, which his lordship had intended for his dinner. But though he would not wait to witness the result of the pursuit, he cast many a "longing, lingering look behind," until at length the boy returned in triumph, and tied up the goose again in his bag, allowing him, as before, to look at the beauteous world which he was so soon to leave.

As we approached the outer gate of Constantinople, we were confined entirely to the causeway, the sands being deep and marshy. It was, gently speaking, a most execrable road. If our animals, from long experience, and the judicious selection which marked all their steps, had not been enabled to work miracles, I know not how we could have got on. It was half-past ten o'clock when we passed the gate, where my firman was exhibited. We then pursued our way through numerous cemeteries, planted with cypresses, and crowded with gravestones, usually small round columns, carved at the top in the figure of a turban. As I was hastening as well as I

could after my Tartar, through these desperate defiles, a fine-looking Turk stopped me, broke a walnut in his hand and divided it with me. It was his mode of bidding me welcome to my destination.

After leaving the receptacles of the dead, which were very extensive, and afforded, by their numberless fresh graves, abundant evidence of the havoc which the plague had recently made, we entered the streets, and were immediately in the midst of the industry and bustle of a great city. Riding to the edge of the "Golden Horn," as the inner harbour is called, I gladly dismounted, and transferred my weary limbs to a boat, where my luggage and Tartar were also speedily deposited. In a few minutes we were landed at Galata, whence we walked on to Pera, and found a French youth, who conducted us to Vitali's hotel, familiarly called Giuseppino's, in the Strada Santa Maria, and almost next door to the church of the Holy Trinity.

The hotel was full of Englishmen; but Vitali very civilly offered to fit up for me, in an hour or two, a chamber at the top of his house, which presented magnificent views of Constantinople. My goods and my person having been then fumigated—as, through ignorance, I had taken no precautions whatever in passing through crowds amongst which the pestilence was absolutely raging—I was admitted to intercourse; breakfasted, reposed a while on a sofa, then with infinite delight changed my travelling attire, and noted in my journal, that, calculating to a moment, I had thus been exactly five days and nights on the road from Rutschuk to the gate of the capital. This was considered a good journey, as although the Tartars perform it in three days and nights, when great expedition is required, travellers seldom go over the whole ground in less than nine. The expectation, therefore, held out to me at the commencement of my ride, that I might accomplish it within three days was all moonshine.

Vitali's account of the plague was alarming. Within the

last week it had considerably diminished, but suddenly returned again, with more violence than ever, and in the city no fewer than fifteen hundred victims had been numbered with the dead only the day before. At Galata and Pera a few deaths had also occurred, and even Therapia, higher up the Bosphorus, was said not to be exempt from the contagion. He confirmed the reports of Mr. Wood's death; but I afterwards learned, that, in point of fact, that gentleman had recovered from the plague by the application of prompt, judicious, and vigorous measures; that being then in a very weakly state, he unfortunately accepted the advice of an Ionian quack, who promised to restore his strength rapidly by the use of a potion which he carried about as a sovereign remedy in all cases of debility, and that the patient died of the dose, in consequence of its having been too powerful for his then wasted constitution.

Mr. Cartwright, the British Consul-General, who lived nearly opposite to Vitali's, and to whom I lost no time in paying my respects, also assured me that he had himself recovered from the plague, by the adoption of timely applications: that the malady was, in truth, nothing more than a violent typhus fever, which, if permitted to reach its height, seemed to be in all cases fatal, but if met in the beginning by medical skill and determination on the part of the sufferer, it yielded the contest, though the poison which it diffused through the veins was felt for a long time after. The first symptoms of the malady are swellings under the arms, which if not opened at once, spread in an hour over the whole frame. The only precautions, he said, which I could adopt, were to procure airy apartments, to live generously, to be attentive to personal cleanliness, and when I walked out to carry in my hand a substantial cane, by which I should prevent any body whomsoever from touching me even with the hem of his garment. I found it awkward enough at first to guide my way through the very narrow streets of Pera, especially during the hours

when they were most crowded, by poking people away, now at one side, and now at the other. But the same thing, I observed, was done by every passenger: it was no rudeness, for it was the result of a universally-understood necessity; and I soon found that I was not more anxious to avoid coming into contact with others, than they were to shun too near an approach to me.

As I was returning from the consul's, where I had the happiness to find letters from home, to my hotel, I met an Armenian funeral procession passing along the street, formed of a long double file of men, preceded by several priests and choir-boys, who were singing the Roman Catholic anthems of the dead, bearing a large silver crucifix, a vase of holy water, a pan of incense, smoking censers, and lighted tapers; the priests in their stoles, surplices, cassocks, and caps; the boys in surplices and cassocks; all moving on with as much order and freedom as I had ever observed in any part of Spain. A black velvet pall was thrown over the coffin, which six men sustained on their shoulders. I followed the procession to the Frank cemetery, which was at the distance of about a mile higher up the Bosphorus: when they arrived at the newly-made grave, the concluding psalms and prayers, closed by that solemn and affecting series of supplications, the *De Profundis*, were read by the officiating clergyman, and responded to by the crowd, in a manner that made me feel at once as if I were not in a Mohametan but a Catholic country.

Here was a remarkable result of the plan upon which that religion was traced from the earliest ages. By its having adopted for its invariable and universal dialect the Latin tongue, I, who am wholly ignorant of Armenian, found myself at home amidst the orisons of that people to the God of all men. The psalms which they repeated, the *Requiem* which they sung, their final adieus to the dead, as the body was lowered into the grave, were those to which I had been accustomed from my infancy—those in which I last took a deep

share when I was separated from a mother who had loved me above all earthly things. My tears mingled with those of the real mourners over the departed—the associations of the scene were not to be controlled.

I was not at all prepared for this open and authorized celebration of Christian rites in the public streets and cemeteries of the very capital of the koran. But I had afterwards abundant opportunities of satisfying my mind that, in no other part of Europe is the existence of all religions more liberally secured and even protected than within the precincts of Constantinople. It was, I think, only the very next day that I witnessed a similar procession of Greek Catholics, whose anthems and prayers differed in language and in other points from those of the Armenians. The body was borne on a bier, clothed in the ordinary attire of life; the head was crowned with a wreath of flowers, the eyes were still open, and the spirit seemed to have departed but a few moments before its receptacle was carried to the cemetery, where it had to wait until its place was hollowed in the earth. On each of these occasions, Turks, Greeks, Armenians, Franks, were seen collected round the grave, all listening with respectful and even solemn attention to the prayers which were uttered by the ministers in attendance.

CHAPTER XX.

Therapia—Caiques—Precautions—Old England—Ambassador's Residence—Lord Ponsonby—Mr. Urquhart—Diplomatic Profession—British Interests—News Dispatches—Dragomanship—Storm—Sources of Plague—Proposed Improvements—Russian Designs—The Dardanelles—Ibrahim Pacha.

HAVING letters for Lord Ponsonby, I proceeded (18th Oct) the day after my arrival to Therapia, where the British

embassy has been most inconveniently established, since the magnificent palace belonging to it at Pera was burnt down during that extensive conflagration which occurred a few years ago. What the distance of Therapia may be from Constantinople by land, I cannot conjecture; by the Bosphorus, the more usual route, I should suppose it may be about nine or ten English miles, which are sometimes doubled by the tacks rendered necessary to catch the baffling winds of that channel. The weather may encourage you to go to the embassy; but a change of wind may detain you there for a week, as the only steam-boat yet upon the Bosphorus is reserved for the exclusive service of the Sultan. Certainly no man can have any right to complain of being imprisoned under Lord Ponsonby's roof for a week or a month: for a more enlightened companion, a more kind-hearted host, or a more worthy representative of his country in every respect, is no where to be found. But it is hardly fair to impose upon any ambassador the necessity, not only of receiving his countrymen in an agreeable manner, but also of keeping a sort of caravansery for them, in order to provide against the vicissitudes of every wind that chooses to blow from the Black Sea, or the sea of Marmora. This inconvenience, however, is, I understand, about to be remedied, as measures are in progress for the erection, at Scutari, of a residence suitable to the dignity of the British Legation.

The caiques that ply on the Bosphorus are somewhat larger and considerably deeper than the wherries of the Thames. But they are built so round that the passengers and rowers must balance themselves to a nicety before they can depart; otherwise they run the chance of being very speedily upset. For this reason the passengers are obliged to convert themselves during their voyage into ballast, by sitting down on the bottom of the vessel, where a mat or a carpet is usually spread for that purpose. If the wind be favourable, the sail is spread, and then the changes of place which become necessary from time to time, in order to preserve the due distribution of the

said balance in accordance with each tack, when the boat can not run right before the breeze, are very troublesome. The annoyance is still more sensibly felt when there is only one passenger in the boat, for he is obliged to shift here and there according to invisible lines of demarcation, as if he were weighing out his body to a customer in scruples.

As it was against the law of health that I should touch any woollen substance, or any other luxury capable of communicating the plague, I was obliged to sit down on the naked plank and be cautious even of suffering a cord to come in contact with my clothes. I thus consigned myself to the care of two brawny Turks, whose oars were tied by leathern thongs to a peg inserted in the edge of the vessel, and we departed from Pera. The day was brilliant.

Much as I had heard of the beauties of the Asiatic as well as of the European banks of the Bosphorus, I must say that they very much exceeded any description I had ever read, or any panorama I had ever seen of them. The ever-changing character of the hills that rise on each side; the magic variations of colour cast upon them by the travelling sun, and by their own shadows; the pendant groves and gardens; the castles and fortifications of the middle ages; the old Moorish architecture of the houses and palaces, which extend for five or six miles under the hills, beside the blue waters; the splendid new residences built on either shore by the present sultan or his ministers, with their light oriental fronts, their latticed windows, their bronze doors, and snow-white marble steps; the towering Turkish ships of war anchored off the arsenal; the merchant-brigs of all nations sailing up or down the waves; the innumerable boats bent on business or pleasure, urged by the oar or wafted by the wind in every direction; the costume of the Frank mingling with that of the Turk, the Albanian, the Greek, the Tartar, the wild mountaineer from Caucasus, the slave from Circassia, the horse-dealer from Arabia, the silk and carpet merchant from Persia, the Dervish

from India, and the veiled form of woman wherever she appeared—spread out a picture of human life and industry, and of natural grandeur, before me, such as no other part of the world could disclose.

In about two hours and a half I arrived at Therapia, where, upon presenting my letters, which were fumigated, and having undergone the same sort of purification myself, I was desired to feel as if I were at home in Old England. Every thing, indeed, looked truly English about me—the sofas, the rose-wood tables, the screens, the comfortable carpets, the cushioned chairs, the richly-curtained windows, the mirrors, the books on side tables, the newspapers, and reviews, and magazines, the bronze ink and pen tray, the blue gilt-edged dispatch paper from the Stationery Office; it was delightful to tread, as it were, upon a portion of the sacred soil of my country, under the protection of her laws, and hearing only her language at such a distance from her shores!

Lord Ponsonby was so good as to keep me to dinner, and to direct a chamber to be prepared for me, which I was to consider as my own during my sojourn in the capital. I had to wind my way to it through several flights of stone-stairs, a court-yard, and then up another set of stairs, where I was surrounded by bath-rooms fitted up with marble basins for the hands and feet, in the Turkish style. Indeed, the mansion, taken as a whole, before it was civilized by the taste and perseverance of Lady Ponsonby, must have presented a most cheerless aspect. It must have looked more like a huge granary than any thing convertible into a fit residence for a nobleman. Such was its state of repair when occupied by Mr. Mandeville, who, as *chargé d'affaires*, immediately preceded Lord Ponsonby, that, when the inclemency of the weather precluded that gentleman from taking his usual ride, he put on his boots, wrapped his cloak around him, and walked up and down his dining-room—a tremendously large saloon—for exercise. On some occasions, it is said, while

thus employed, he was even compelled to place himself under the protection of an umbrella!

The society of Therapia is necessarily very limited; indeed, usually confined to the circles of the English and French legations, which are established near each other. Lady Ponsonby has, however, an ample compensation for her absence from the gay crowds of home in an intellect refined by great natural delicacy of thought, and enriched by the treasures of almost every living language worth attention. Lord Ponsonby is an ardent pupil of the Fox school, of which, and of the individuals who moved in it in his younger days, he has preserved many anecdotes, which he tells with great effect.

Among the guests of the day were Mr. David Urquhart, the well-known author of "Turkey and its Resources," (1) who had lately returned to Constantinople from a tour through the European provinces of the Ottoman empire. This gentleman seems to have attached himself strongly to the Turkish people, amongst whom he has already acquired considerable influence. He is the first European, I believe, who has been admitted to Mahometan society in the turban, without having changed, or intended or even affected to change, his religion, which is that of the Protestant church. His residence was at Scutari, where he lived altogether after the Turkish fashion, dispensing, however, with the harem, and was known by the title of the "English Bey!" He was full of the Russian question—that is to say, of the numberless inroads lately made upon the independence of the Sultan by the open aggressions and the more dangerous secret manœuvres of the imperial government, and was so obliging as to give me much useful information on that subject.

Another of the ambassador's guests was Dr. M'Neil, (2) an intelligent and enterprising Scotchman, who went out some

(1) Since appointed Secretary to the British Embassy at Constantinople.

(2) Since appointed Secretary to the Persian Embassy.

years ago as physician to the British embassy in Persia. He was on his way home with dispatches. His account of that interesting country was by no means encouraging, so far as British interests were concerned. The whole empire was in a state of disorganization, of which, as usual, a swarm of Russian agents were eagerly availing themselves, in order to prepare the way for their own dominion.

It is an unfortunate defect in our constitution, that its machinery is expressly calculated to prevent us from having a body of gentlemen regularly brought up to diplomacy as a profession, altogether independent of politics. The etiquette of foreign courts will, for the most part, generally require the higher appointments in that department of the state to be filled by noblemen; and as these individuals owe their promotion chiefly to political connection, I fear they must always remain liable to be changed with the fluctuations which so frequently take place in our government. But it is quite practicable, if the system were once established, that all the minor legations, the secretaryships and other offices connected with the foreign interests of the country, should be committed exclusively to the hands of individuals properly educated for the purpose. The duties of consuls and vice-consuls are essentially diplomatic, and ought to be entrusted only to gentlemen capable of serving the country in that capacity.

If some system of this kind be not speedily established, we may as well give up at once the latent contest which we are at this moment carrying on with Russia in Persia, Turkey, and Greece, and with all the Northern Powers in Germany and Italy. All the consuls of these powers are diplomatic agents, besides whom they have "agents of correspondence," distributed through every country where their interests are in the slightest degree liable to be affected by political circumstances. It is a national silliness on our part to say that these men are "spies," and because *espionage* is in itself a mean and objectionable occupation, therefore we ought not to follow

the example of our rivals. It is eminently absurd to designate an individual as a "spy," in the offensive sense of that term, whose office it is to watch the progress of events, to mark the character of the men engaged in them, to speculate rationally upon their consequences, and to furnish his government with all the information concerning them which he has been enabled to collect on the spot by his sagacity and industry. Such an agent may frequently render to his country most material services; and in consequence of the want of public officers of this description, I am convinced that the influence of England is all but destroyed in Germany and Italy, and the whole of the western districts of Asia.

Another vice of our diplomatic system, if, indeed, we can be said to have any such system at all, is this, that when a dispatch is prepared by any of our ministers abroad, he is strictly enjoined by the regulations of the Foreign Office to restrict his statements to one general subject. Thus, for instance, suppose the negotiations on the Boundary question to be going on at Washington, and that the British envoy has occasion to narrate to his government the progress he has made, he must touch, in his dispatch upon that subject, no other topic whatever. The consequence of this regulation is, that although, on some rare occasions, separate dispatches are written on other subjects, generally speaking, no more than a single communication upon the principal topic is sent home, unaccompanied by a solitary remark on the living history of the men and of the transactions, of whom the writer is only one, and of which his composition forms no more than an episode. From this practice it results that our representatives at foreign stations are seldom good observers of character; that their dispatches are remarkably dry, and altogether destitute of general information. I have been told that, in the legations and consular offices of Russia, Austria, and Prussia, and even of some of the minor states, individuals are specially instructed to write home what are called "news dispatches,"

as often as possible. I know of no reason why a similar course should not be adopted by our legations, many of which are well paid for doing little, and that little very indifferently. But perhaps the defect of our diplomacy, which in Turkey most strongly demands immediate alteration, is that arising from the old fashion of dragomanship—not indeed peculiar to the English embassy, since it prevails also amongst the other European missions at Constantinople. An intelligent tribe of men, half Greek, half Italian, has been settled for centuries at Pera, whose business it has been to cultivate the Turkish, French, and Italian languages; hence they are enabled to furnish each of the embassies with an interpreter, who is retained in its service at a high salary. He attends the minister at all his interviews with the Sultan, the members of government, and of the divan, in order to interpret between both parties; he translates the notes and other communications transmitted by one party to the other, and thus becomes intimately acquainted with state secrets on both sides. Does he never reveal them? If this question can be truly answered in the negative, then the whole race is much calumniated at Constantinople. Indeed, it is said that Russian gold, which is never absent from the scene of negotiations when an important disclosure can be purchased, has irresistible charms for the dragomen.

It may be asked, why a professional secretary is not attached to our Turkish embassy, selected from amongst our own countrymen, and qualified for his office by a familiar acquaintance with the Turkish language? It is not more difficult than the dialects of Persia and India, where we have seldom occasion for the assistance of interpreters in our diplomatic missions, because care is taken to attach to them one gentleman at least of British origin, who is master of the language of the country where the mission is established. The same rule should apply to Constantinople, where the members of government, with few exceptions, are ignorant of every language but their own.

I was detained at Therapia the whole of the ensuing day (19th October) by heavy rains, and a violent tempest which prevailed, without a moment's intermission, until evening, when we all met again round Lord Ponsonby's table. During the night there were tremendous storms of thunder and lightning, accompanied by a strong wind, blowing down from the Black Sea, through the hills on each side of the Bosphorus, as through a funnel, in the very neck of which his lordship's residence was placed. The waters were still (20th October) much disturbed when I returned to Pera; but the wind being right down the channel, I was only an hour on the voyage, and spent that day, as well as several of the following days, in exploring the curiosities of Constantinople, with an account of which, as they have been already fully and graphically described in a hundred other works, I shall not burthen these pages.

One or two general reflections, however, upon the actual state of that metropolis, may not be deemed superfluous. It is built on a series of hills, which afford every requisite facility for purifying the streets, and for conducting to the Sea of Marmora, through properly-constructed sewers, all the impurities which necessarily attend a large population. Unfortunately, whatever sewers exist are choked up, or lead only into the Golden Horn, the inner harbour, where numerous merchant ships are anchored at all seasons of the year. The consequence is, that the harbour, which is but little affected by the current of the Bosphorus, is little better than a stagnant pool, in which not only the drainage from the most crowded part of the city is collected, but also that of the ships waiting for winds, or to deliver or receive their cargoes. I entertain no doubt at all that the Golden Horn, so called as the emblem of commercial abundance, is the real source of the pestilence which so often, I may say so permanently, wastes that metropolis, and renders it a most disagreeable place of residence.

There is not, indeed there cannot be, any thing like society

in a capital, where every circle is obliged to observe a quarantine against its neighbour. "Have you touched any body to-day?" is the first question put to a visitor, who is supposed not to be experienced in the arts of avoiding contact. The whole year passes without any evening amusements. Theatres, musical or dancing assemblies, are of course out of the question in such a state of things. Indeed, nobody attempts to go out at night, as the bazaars are all closed at sunset, and the streets are destitute of lamps.

It is impossible, therefore, that Constantinople can ever be rendered a healthy, a social, or civilized residence, in the European sense of the terms, until the inner harbour shall be entirely filled up, and the sea excluded to that line of demarcation where the current of the Bosphorus acts upon the mass of the waters. New sewers must be constructed leading chiefly into the Sea of Marmora. The bazaars, which are in fact but the principal streets *roofed in*, should be unroofed, and left perfectly open to the air. The gates which exist in different parts of the city, with the view of cutting off communication during a period of insurrection, should be removed. The old battlements and walls, which have no value as defences against artillery, should be levelled with the earth. The same fate should visit the cumbrous and lofty walls by which the official habitations of the governor of Constantinople, and other public servants, are surrounded. For the wooden houses, of which the capital is chiefly composed, streets in the Moorish style of architecture, of stone or brick materials, should be substituted. If these and other alterations, which good taste, attention to air, and provisions for an efficient police would suggest, were carried into execution, Constantinople would be without a rival for the beauty and commercial advantages of its situation.

I believe that nobody has thought more frequently or more deeply upon this subject than the late and the present sovereigns of Russia. Indeed, when we consider the vast strides which their dominion has made from time to time towards the

Dardanelles, we cannot avoid coming to a conclusion, that the design has been, and still is seriously entertained, of eventually rendering Constantinople the seat of government for the Russian empire. This is not only, in my judgment, a very natural object of ambition on the part of the Czar, but one apparently forced upon him by the defective position which the southern provinces of his vast possessions enjoy.

By having extended their authority from the old kingdom of Muscovy to the Lesser Tartary and the Crimea, thence on the eastern shore of the Euxine to Anapa, and to the delta of the Danube, on the west, the Russians have become masters of the Black Sea, which has no outlet, except through the Bosphorus and the Hellespont. The current which flows through those canals, and through the intervening Sea of Marmora, points out the natural course which that authority must further take, before it can be established on a solid basis.

The phrase which escaped Alexander, when he called the Dardanelles "the key of my house," is pregnant with a truth which becomes every day more apparent. It is unquestionably necessary to the further aggrandizement of the dominions of the Czar, assuming that to be his object, to have the right of free egress and ingress through the gates of the Dardanelles, which are the gates also of the Black Sea; and it is incompatible with the notion which every man must entertain, of the relations actually subsisting between his Imperial Majesty and the Sultan, to suppose, that the former would ever again suffer the shutting or the opening of the Dardanelles to be dependent on the fiat of the Divan.

All the recent history of Russia has been one uniform series of transactions, tending cunningly, and indeed without disguise, towards the transference of the imperial throne from Petersburgh to Constantinople. The treaty of Bucharest, which was signed in 1812, placed Wallachia and Moldavia under the *quasi* protection of the emperor. By virtue of the treaty of Adrianople (1829), and of Petersburgh (1834), as we shall pre-

sently see, those provinces have become substantially Russian; and Servia has acquired a nominal government of her own, which is calculated only to prepare the way to a similar result in that quarter. This was a remarkable stride across the Danube, and in order that no re-action should render it ineffectual, possession was subsequently secured to the Russian troops of Silistria, which opens the way to Constantinople, for a period of eight years certain, liable to be prolonged *ad infinitum!*

This period of eight years forms a remarkable epoch in these transactions; it discloses the predominant thought of the Russian cabinet in originating the treaty of Adrianople, as well as the two still more important treaties of 1833 and 1834, by which the advantages acquired on the side of the emperor under the former compact, were not only confirmed but seriously augmented. Eight years from April 1830 (when the convention for the payment of the indemnity was signed at Petersburgh) would seem to be the space of time within which the Czar at first calculated upon replenishing his treasury, and collecting sufficient means to enable him to surprise or defy the power of Great Britain, by seizing the Dardanelles. We shall accordingly observe, that when a portion of the indemnity (ten millions of Dutch ducats) which the Sultan agreed by the treaty of 1829 to pay to Russia, was subsequently remitted, no diminution took place in the term of years over which the payments had been originally extended; on the contrary, that term was *enlarged!*

Every body recollects how England and France were engaged in 1832 and 1833 in settling the affairs of Belgium; that French troops were obliged to dislodge by force the Dutch garrison from Antwerp, while British ships of war were occupied in blockading the ports of Holland. In the mean time, Ibrahim Pacha, the able and enterprising son of Mahomet Ali, actual ruler of Egypt, had overrun all Syria, had encamped on the mountainous regions of the Taurus, and threatened a

descent upon Constantinople itself. Under these circumstances, the Sultan applied for assistance to England and France; but whether it was that sufficient importance had not been then attached to the conquests of Ibrahim, or to the apprehension that his ultimate views were directed upon Constantinople, or that the engagements of both the powers, with reference to the pacification of Belgium, prevented them from paying due attention to the solicitations of the Porte, it is at all events certain, that the interposition required on that occasion in behalf of the Turkish empire was refused by the two governments. I cannot but consider that refusal as a most unfortunate event, from whatever causes it may have arisen; it left the field of the East open to the autocrat, who lost not a moment in making it his own.

CHAPTER XXI.

Treaty of Unkiar Skelessi—Its Substance—Third Article—Remaining Patent Articles—Audiences of the Sultan—Count Orloff—Secret Article—Its Effect—Law of the Dardanelles—Outrage on International Law—Treaty of Petersburgh—Boundaries—The Provinces—Firman—Russian Ascendancy.

LEFT to struggle single-handed against an enemy for whom every fresh battle became a triumph, the Sultan was reduced to the necessity of applying to Russia for that succour which was denied him elsewhere. If ever the secret history of Ibrahim's expedition be revealed, it will probably exhibit the extent to which Russian agency was concerned in that enterprize. Its coincidences with the entanglements of France and England, both foreign and domestic, if not designed, were curiously fortunate for the views of Russia upon Turkey. No sooner was the request made than a Russian fleet of ten ships of the line and several frigates was dispatched to the Bosphorus,

and a Russian army of fifty thousand men shortly after occupied the heights of Unkiar Skelessi, or "The King's Stairs," on the Asiatic side of that canal—the same heights which were once covered by the tents of the Crusaders who had assembled under the command of Godfrey of Boulogne.

The real objects of the generous and disinterested friend of the Porte in this business became obvious in the course of a little time; before his fleet or his troops departed on their return home, a treaty was concluded between the two powers, which has since given rise to discussions of a grave character, inasmuch as they are as yet by no means terminated, nor modified in the aspect which they assumed from the commencement—an aspect portentous of a general war in Europe.

I found it extremely difficult to obtain an authentic copy of that treaty. Being a contract between the two powers, consisting of six patent articles and a separate article intended to be kept secret, the treaty was not officially communicated to other governments, and never has been officially published. The fact is, that the Turkish original in their own language is construed by the Divan, on some points, in a way not strictly reconcileable with the Russian original in French, and therefore doubts may be contended for on both sides as to the acceptation in which the whole treaty should be received. I have however succeeded in procuring a copy of that document, which may be relied upon as containing no material error.(1) It will be found in French and English in the Appendix; I shall here briefly state its substance.

It is entitled a "Treatise of *Defensive* Alliance", between Russia and Turkey, entered into by the parties with a view to give effect to the sincere desire by which they were animated to maintain the system of peace and good harmony happily established between the two empires, and to extend and to strengthen the perfect friendship and confidence which reigned between them. It was therefore mutually agreed that there

(1) Appendix A.

should be for ever peace, friendship, and alliance between the two sovereigns, their empires and subjects, by land and sea: that the *only* object of that alliance should be the common defence of their states against every kind of attack (*i. e.* by a foreign enemy or domestic insurgents), their majesties pledging themselves "to enter into an unreserved understanding with each other with reference to all objects that concern their tranquillity and security respectively, and to lend for that purpose mutually *matériel* succours, and the most effective assistance." The second article confirms the treaties and conventions previously concluded between the two powers.

The third article runs thus:—In consequence of the principle of conservation and mutual defence which serves as the basis of the present treaty of alliance, and in pursuance of the most sincere desire of assuring the duration, the maintenance, and entire independence of the Sublime Porte, the emperor, in case circumstances which might again induce the Porte to claim naval and military assistance from Russia should occur, although the case were not to be foreseen, promises, if it should please God, to furnish by land and sea such number of troops and forces as the two contracting parties shall judge necessary. Accordingly, it is agreed that in this case, the forces by land and sea which the Porte shall require shall be held at its disposal.

The fourth article stipulates, that in case one of the powers should require assistance, as before specified, from the other, those expenses only which may be incurred for provisioning the forces by land and sea shall be defrayed by the party demanding the succours. The fifth article limits the period during which this treaty is to be in force to *eight* years from the date of the exchange of ratifications. The parties, indeed, assure each other that they desire to maintain its engagements to the latest moment of time; but leave themselves at liberty hereafter to modify its provisions, and extend its duration, as circumstances may suggest. The sixth and concluding patent

article regulates the period (two months) for the exchange of ratifications, and terminates with the usual form for authenticating the instrument, without making any allusion whatever to the "separate article."

Lord Ponsonby landed at Therapia on the 4th of May (1833) from the *Actæon*, in which he had sailed from Naples, a few days before Count Orloff reached the Bosphorus in a Russian *steam-boat* from Odessa. His lordship had his first audience of the Sultan at the splendid new kiosk or palace of Dalma Batché, on the European bank of the Bosphorus; he remained an hour. The Count Orloff immediately followed, and remained two hours. On leaving the Sultan, the Count told every body that he was like a person who came to a banquet when all was over. He had nothing to do! The fleet was already ordered home! The encampment was about to be broken up! He was an idle man, and his only business was to amuse himself as well as he could for a few days!

The gentlemen of the *Actæon* were requested to consider themselves quite at home in the Russian camp; they played at cricket in the Sultan's valley! The commander-in-chief actually went on board himself to invite the captain to visit him at his mansion; he went in full uniform, landing from his boat where his pennant was displayed, sent in his name, was detained in the hall amongst orderlies and common soldiers nearly half an hour, and came away in disgust! An explanation arrived the day after, to say that it was all a mistake—that the servants were ignorant of the rank of the English visitor!

On the 24th of May, the Sultan was to go to the mosque; it was noticed that he delayed considerably beyond the usual time; and it afterwards transpired that he had been engaged in a most violent discussion with the Count Orloff; many angry speeches having passed on the occasion between the diplomatist and the sovereign. When his highness mounted his horse, decorated though he was with diamonds, eme-

ralds, and rubies, he looked the personification of ill-humour.

A few days after this scene, a ship arrived in the Bosphorus from Malta, with intelligence that a formidable combined British and French fleet had sailed for the Dardanelles. This was not exactly the fact; for their object was to prohibit the advance, beyond the Taurus, of the troops under the command of Ibrahim; and as the mandate was at once obeyed, and there was no longer any pretence for the stay of the Russian fleet in the Bosphorus, preparations were made (most reluctantly) for its departure. Nevertheless, under one pretext or another, the troops were detained, week after week, at Unkiar Skelessi, amid a series of balls, reviews, fireworks, and amusements of every description, under cover of which the negotiations for the above treaty were most adroitly conducted. It was signed on the 26th of June (8th of July, N. S.), and the "separate secret article" was executed on the same day.

That article is as follows:—"By virtue of the first article of the *patent* treaty of defensive alliance concluded between the Sublime Porte and the Imperial Court of Russia, the two high contracting parties have engaged to afford to each other mutually *matériel* succours, and the most effective assistance for the security of their respective states. Nevertheless, as his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, wishing to spare the Sublime Porte the charges and the embarrassments which would result on its part from the grant of such *matériel* succours, will not demand such succours if circumstances should place the Sublime Porte under the necessity of furnishing them, the Sublime Ottoman Porte, in lieu of such succours which it is bound to afford, if necessary, in conformity with the principle of reciprocity of the patent treaty, *ought* to limit its action in favour of the Imperial *Court of Russia to the closing of the strait of the Dardanelles*, that is to say, *not to permit any foreign ship of war to enter it under any pretext whatever*. The present separate and secret article shall

have the same force and validity as if it were inserted, word for word, in the treaty of defensive alliance of this day.

The whole object of the patent treaty is therefore to create a plausible pretext for the secret article. One party agrees at first, and in open market, to lend the other a pound of powder; but for the pound of powder both parties subsequently agree in secret to substitute the *key* of the Dardanelles! The change which such an agreement operates in the relations previously existing between the two powers is manifest. The object attained by the private contract bears no proportion whatever to the part of the public transaction for which that object is extorted as an equivalent. Russia really wanted no "*matériel* succours" from Turkey; but she pretends to require them on the principle of reciprocity, and founds upon that principle the establishment of the great object of her ambition, the control of the Dardanelles! Thus the parties who act before the world as equals, on retiring behind the scenes, are suddenly transformed into two very different characters—the master and the slave.

It cannot be doubted, I apprehend, that the British government has good right to complain of this transaction. I admit, of course, that two independent powers possess authority to make such stipulations with each other as they may think conducive to their mutual benefit. Even then, however, if we see an unfair advantage taken of an enfeebled state in the hour of distress by a more energetic and ambitious neighbour, other nations, though not immediately affected by the consequences of the act, are not justly liable to animadversion if they contemplate such a proceeding with extreme jealousy. But the case becomes much stronger as a groundwork for jealousy, if not for measures of a defined and active character, when we examine its bearings upon the interests of Europe in general.

The law of the Dardanelles, so to speak, stood, before the 8th of July, 1833, as follows. The Porte had for centuries

exercised the right of excluding, in time of peace, from that strait and the Bosphorus the ships of war of all foreign nations, without exception. England, France, and the other powers of the Continent, acquiesced in that law, and even may be considered as parties consenting to it. If the Porte proposed to modify that law, her intentions ought, according to the courtesy of nations at peace with each other, to have been communicated to the other governments before being carried into execution. The ministers of the Porte and Russia, however, meet in a secret chamber at Constantinople, and enact, of their own authority, a most important alteration in a law which, by the general consent given to it, had long ceased to be a mere municipal law of Turkey, and had become interwoven with the general law of nations. I contend, therefore, that this proceeding, besides being clandestine, is the usurpation of an authority which one of these states, but not both combined, possessed. The Porte owned both sides of the two straits, and might close or open them lawfully. But the two powers had no joint delegation to legislate for Europe.

What is the effect of the alteration? Before the treaty all foreign ships of war were excluded, in time of peace, from the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. The secret article decrees an exception in favour of Russia. Under the patent treaty, the emperor, if he deem it necessary to the safety of his states, may call upon his defensive ally to assist him with *matériel* succours. Under the secret article, he says, "I do not want your powder; but in lieu of it you must shut the Dardanelles against my enemies." This proceeding, if carried into effect, would, in case of a war, for instance, between England and Russia, give to the latter an advantage to which, under the law of nations as it stood before, she would not be entitled. Her ships of war would not in that case be "foreign" within the meaning of the treaty; they would not be the ships of a "stranger," *étranger*, but of an ally—a *defensive* ally—and therefore they would have a right to egress and ingress

through the two straits at a time when they would be shut against the flag of England.

Another striking consequence of the whole transaction is this:—that whenever the emperor chooses to go to war, he may, if he wish it, call upon his *defensive* ally to become a belligerent also, whether it be for the interest of the Porte or not. The treaty is indeed limited in its duration to eight years (again that mystic period!). But it is "renewable for ever." Every hour it exists inflicts, in my judgment, an outrage on the law, and, what is higher than the law, the honour of all other nations.

It is a peculiarly offensive though a necessary ingredient in this transaction, that, although the two powers have affected to legislate for Europe, they have never yet officially promulgated the terms of the ordinance by which they have decided that we shall in future be governed. This is usurpation in its most tyrannical form. "You shall obey my law," says the autocrat, "but you shall not know it." Thus, to an unjustifiable claim to paramount authority over all Europe, the Muscovite has sought to add the dark and undefined and lawless empire of the Inquisition.

The treaty of Unkiar Skelessi was not long afterwards followed by another, which was signed by the plenipotentiaries of the two powers at St. Petersburgh on the 29th of January (1) (10th February) 1834—that is to say, by Ahmed Pacha on the one part, and the Counts Nesselrode and Orloff on the other. This is a very remarkable treaty. The first article relates to the "line of demarcation," which was in future to separate the two empires in the east, with a view to prevent every species of dispute and discussion, as well as the depredations of those tribes whose acts had more than once compromised the relations of neighbourhood and friendship between the two empires! Not a word is said here of those compensations *en nature*, which were to form part of the indemnity to be paid by the Porte; and yet if the reader will look at the map

(1) Appendix B.

of Asia while he reads the first article carefully, he will perceive that, without mentioning them by name, the article transfers to Russia a considerable portion of the eastern coast of the Black Sea, including the richest, the most populous, and the most fertile territories of Turkey in that direction. The line departs from port St. Nicolo on the coast of the Euxine, follows the actual frontiers of the province of Guriel, ascends the confines of Juira, and thence traverses the province of Akhiskha, until it strikes the point where the provinces of Akhiskha and of Cars are re-united with the province of Georgia.

An engagement is then entered into on the part of the Emperor, that as soon as the boundary lines shall have been marked by commissioners, to be appointed for that purpose, the Russian troops shall evacuate the territories beyond the line; and it is agreed that the Mussulmen who were living within the "inconsiderable territory," which is comprised within the line that passes by the Sandjack of Groubhan and the borders of the Sandjacks of Ponskron and of Djildir, if they wish to reside under the dominion of the Porte, may take eighteen months "to finish the affairs which attach them to the country, and transfer themselves to the Turkish states, without molestation!"

The subject of the provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia is next finally disposed of. By the convention of Ackermann it had been stipulated between the two powers that the Hospodars should be appointed by the Porte, and that they should hold office for seven years, when the Sultan might re-appoint them, or substitute other persons for them, during similar periods. By the separate Act (1), attached to the treaty of Adrianople, the government of the provinces is placed upon a footing which is almost equivalent to a state of independence, so far as the Porte is concerned; and the second article of the treaty of Petersburgh, now under consideration, affects simply to confirm that arrangement, whereas it really surrenders the substantial sovereignty of the provinces to Russia.

"By the instrument," says the article, "executed separately at Adrianople relative to the principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia, the Sublime Porte has engaged to recognise formally the regulations made, while the Russian troops occupied those provinces, by the principal inhabitants with reference to the internal administration of the country; the Sublime Porte finding nothing in the articles of that *constitution*, which can affect its rights of Suzeraineté, consents henceforth formally to recognise the said constitution. It undertakes to publish in this respect a firman, accompanied by a hatti sheriff, within two months after the exchange of ratifications, and to give a copy of the same to the Russian mission at Constantinople.

Hence it appears that, although the principalities were then in a condition *apparently* to treat for themselves—although they possessed a constitution framed according to the wishes of the "notable inhabitants" of those districts, and although that constitution was now solemnly recognised, no authority could be admitted emanating directly from the principalities to be a contracting party to this treaty. The reader will have further observed, that no provision is made for communicating a copy of the firman and the hatti sheriff specially to the authorities of the principalities themselves. Both instruments are to be published to all the world—but the official copy of them is stipulated to be given only to the *Russian* mission at Constantinople! Therefore the Emperor is the real sovereign of the principalities, and the hospodars are his puppets.

The third article of this treaty relates to the indemnity, and proposes to *facilitate* its payment. It had been stipulated by a former treaty that the Porte should pay annually, during the term of eight years, one million of Dutch ducats: that sum is now reduced to half a million, but the annual payments are still to extend over the period of eight years. Two millions of the original ten would still remain, however, to be paid. The Emperor gives them up, in consideration of the Sultan's

poverty! An arrangement is then made, whereby the whole of the four millions of ducats which thus constitute the amount of the indemnity, shall be paid in annual instalments, during eight years; and the first year is to be from May 1834 to May 1835, the second from May 1835 to May 1836, and so on, by which it may be seen that the possession of Silistria, which the Emperor holds until the indemnity shall be fully liquidated, has been extended from the year 1838, the original period, to the year of our Lord 1842. The registration among its achives of the firman and hatti sheriff, relating to the principalities, is not a more valid token of Russian ascendancy in these provinces, than Silistria is of her paramount authority throughout Turkey.

CHAPTER XXII.

Dictation—Signal of War—Civilization—Barbarism—Russian Court—Turkish Civilization—Commercial Views—Mediterranean Trade—Steam-boats—Dardanelles—Nullification—Government Measures—Nesselrode's Answer—Russian magnanimity—Treaty of 1809—Strait of the Euxine—Russian Advantages—Key of Turkey.

It was comparatively an unimportant prerogative of the Sultan to hold in his own hands the key of the Dardanelles. We acquiesced in his exercise of that principle, because he was an old ally of ours, and not possessed of any formidable power. But the same prerogative, usurped by the Emperor, becomes a privilege of a very different character. We have not been consulted about the transfer. From weak hands it has been wrested by those of a giant, with whom we shall, sooner or later, have to contend for the liberties and peace of Europe. If we had been solicited to consent to such an arrangement,

we should certainly have opposed it; if insisted upon, we should have negotiated further only by ordering our fleet to the Bosphorus. Are we to be constrained into acquiescence by the force of a treaty concluded behind our back—a treaty signed by the Sultan under duresse—a surreptitious, and in every respect an illegal, instrument?

Are we to acknowledge the Czar as the sovereign lord of Turkey, dictating the law of the Dardanelles—the law of nations—to the whole commercial world? Are we to endure the continuance of those relations between Russia and the Porte, by the instrumentality of which, under the mask of a treaty concluded between two powers, one independent of the other, and upon a footing of equality with it only by diplomatic fiction, a rule of warfare is enacted in a clandestine form, to be carried into execution whenever it suits the convenience of the party with whom it originated? These are questions in which not England only, but all maritime Europe, the two Americas, and the Indies, are vitally interested. The view I have taken of the treaty of Unkiar Skelessi must be founded altogether upon mistaken notions as to the authority from which international laws should emanate, and as to the sanctions by which they are upheld, if that compact be not such an invasion of the rights of all other countries, as to compel them, in their own defence, to nullify it by the most direct exercise of all the powers of resistance within their control. That treaty must be rescinded, or we shall be but a province of Russia. It is itself a manifest preparation for war. It is the first trumpet-sound of the camp gathering in the North, to emulate the hordes which, in former ages, pressed upon the barriers of the Roman empire until they swept them away, bearing down beneath their hoofs, as they rushed tumultuously onward, every monument of art, every creation of genius, every fair, and beauteous, and noble work of a polished and generous people, that was conducive to convenience, or illumined by accumulated centuries of glory.

Considered as a question of human civilization, I ask any man, conversant with the actual state of the Northern empire itself, whether, setting apart the fraud perpetrated on the "King's Stairs," and the injustice against all other nations with which that act is pregnant, there is the most remote probability in the hypothesis that Turkey would be really and permanently improved by becoming the handmaid of Russia? We are told, from day to day, by foreign writers paid out of the imperial treasury, that the Ottoman sovereignty is falling to ruin; that the Mussulmen are a voluptuous, indolent, superstitious, slavish, and barbarous race; that they have no schools, no literature, no science, no architecture, no sculpture, no painting; and that the time has arrived for expelling them for ever from Europe, where after all they have been only encamped for a few centuries.

I could feel the force of this sort of argument if put forth in favour of England or France, or even of Southern Germany; but in the mouth of a Russian it is unintelligible. If Turkey be in a state of dilapidation, is it to be restored by the destroyer of Poland? If the Turk be voluptuous, will the Oustliougan render him abstemious? If the Turk be indolent, will the Cossack convert him to habits of industry? If the Turk have no schools, is he likely to obtain them from the conqueror who shut up the university of Warsaw? If the Turk have no literature, will he acquire it from the unrestricted, enlightened presses of Moscow?

If the magnanimous autocrat feel desirous of assisting to civilize mankind, let his Majesty show what he can do by beginning at home. Let him look to the very *élite* of his own court, the very nobles by whose presence his palaces are graced, and say whether they are such as even he would wish them to be? That some few men of great aptitude for diplomacy, of elegant manners, and general intelligence, belong to that court, no one who knows any thing of the Lievens, the Nesselrodes, the Di Borgos, the Pahlens, the Orloffs, will venture

to deny. But these are either foreigners, or be "rari nantes in gurgite vasto." What are they amongst fifty millions of boors, over whom the imperial sceptre waves—men degraded even beneath the lines of ordinary barbarism, and likely to be kept there for ages still to come, by the essentially unchangeable principles of the government which holds them in subjection?

Most of the agents of the Russian cabinet are adventurers from the civilized nations, who seek to earn fortune, and perhaps fame, in the service of a treasury, which, though very much straitened in its resources, can always command enough of gold to establish a system of corruption in every part of the world, where anti-liberal views are to be carried into effect. I am willing to acknowledge the fact that some native subjects of the Emperor have displayed great intellectual powers. One of these gentlemen, however, whom I met at Rome, who had devoted himself to painting, and was considered as eminently successful in his art, told me that he had no country but Italy. He had not the most remote intention, he said, to return to a home where celebrity has no lustre, genius no protection!

Turkey, it must be admitted on all hands, is not in a state of civilization at this moment—unfortunately very far from it. But there is no danger in asserting that it is much the superior of Russia in that and every other respect; and if any such connection as the relation of sovereign and subject were to be established between the autocrat and the Ottoman people, it would blight every hope of improvement, annihilate every chance of future prosperity, which they now enjoy. To adopt avowed, systematic, and most rigorous measures for the entire extermination of the Turks, would be a policy infinitely more humane than any that would bare them to the scourge of the most brutal soldiery on the face of the earth.

What would be the state of our commerce in the Levant, and indeed throughout the Mediterranean, if Russia domineered

over Turkey, and held the Dardanelles? Our trade with the Russian ports of the Black Sea and the Baltic is at this moment, I admit, considerable. But it is not in the power of the Autocrat to terminate or even suspend it by a ukase. His subjects want our manufactures and our colonial produce, and if they cannot carry on their accustomed interchange with us under the protection of law, they will carry it on in despite of the law. Our commerce with Constantinople is, if I be rightly informed, doubling every year; while at Smyrna it is steadily increasing, though not in the same ratio. Thessalonica has lately demanded an English consul. The inhabitants of the new kingdom of Greece have returned to those agricultural pursuits, to which they are naturally much devoted, and the Piræus, whose very name ceased to be remembered, except by the classic student, in Europe, exhibits the bustle of a crowded and industrious port. Napoli and Patras have been for some years actively engaged in intercourse with England. Corfu is crowded with Greek and English brigs. I reckoned above a hundred ships of all nations, our own as usual conspicuous, in the harbour of Trieste. Venice is recovering from her long lethargy. Ancona has some business, and Naples an important trade with us. Civita Vecchia is by no means abandoned by English merchantmen. Leghorn and Genoa are literally forested with our masts.

Hardly a week passes that our merchant flags are not seen entering or leaving Palermo. We visit Candia, and sweep the whole of the Syrian and Barbary coasts; every new year trebles our engagements at Alexandria. Marseilles, Toulon, Barcelona, Valencia, and Malaga, have for centuries been accustomed to our merchandize.

Before ten years elapse, the Mediterranean will be traversed in all directions by steam-boats, and in no sea are they so much required, on account of the variable and often perplexing winds, and still more provoking calms, by which it has been in all ages characterized. The result must necessarily

be, that that vast lake will become the centre for commercial operations emanating from Persia through the Euxine, from Western Asia, Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe, Egypt, and the finest provinces of Africa—operations which, on account of the impulse they are to receive from the employment of steam-communication, will be multiplied to an extent of which it is impossible for us now to conceive even an estimate.

If this system of active commerce demand the presence in the Mediterranean of myriads of our merchant vessels, and if it be admitted, as I apprehend it must be, that the power who possesses the Dardanelles under his control might rush out from his strong-hold, whenever it should suit his convenience, capture great numbers of those vessels, and run back again behind his gates with perfect impunity; that would be a state of things not very consonant to the well-understood interests or dignity of the British empire. The Dardanelles must not become another Algiers.

The question, therefore, at which the discussion has now arrived is this:—By what process are we to frustrate the treaty of Unkiar Skelessi, to rescue Turkey from the power of Russia, and to constitute the Ottoman empire an impregnable barrier against the further encroachment of the northern hordes in that direction?

It is necessary here to observe, that as soon as our government received authentic information as to the conclusion of the secret treaty, they instructed Lord Ponsonby to remonstrate against it at the Porte in the strongest terms. Lord Palmerston also addressed a note to Count Nesselrode, intimating that the British Government disapproved of that transaction, and would act as if it had never taken place. A similar note was addressed to the same quarter by the French minister for foreign affairs. Count Nesselrode's answer to both these communications was epigrammatic—Russia would act as if those notes had never been written. Such an answer as this was not calculated to soothe the irritation which the clandestine

alliance had excited; and the next step on our part was, to demand explanations as to the object of the treaty, from the parties in whose names it had been executed. The reply of the Porte was an evasive commentary on its own copy of the treaty, which it attempted to interpret in a way to lead to a conclusion that the instrument was in effect so much waste paper. Such an interpretation as this naturally suggested the further inquiry, "if your construction be right, then why did such a transaction take place at all?" "To please Russia, in whose power we were—to get away her fleets and troops, as they were no longer required," was the Reis Effendi's reply, given less in words than by a shrug of the shoulder, which was much more sincere than any language could have been on his part under the circumstances.

The oxplanations of Count Nesselrode were administered in a more diplomatic form, and even assumed the character of an argument. "You are perfectly aware," said he, "that it "is an ancient regulation of the Ottoman empire to prohibit "ships of war from entering the straits of the Dardanelles and "the Black Sea in time of peace, and that all the powers have "acquiesced in considering that the Porte had a right to make "that regulation, inasmuch as the territory on either side of "those straits was her own. We have done no more in the "treaty of Unkiar Skelessi than acknowledge the justness of "that regulation—it acts against ourselves as well as against "you—our ships are shut out as well as yours—of what then "have you to complain?"

Such was the substance of an argument clothed in a vast mass of eloquent phraseology, in which the magnanimity of the Emperor in quitting the Bosphorus at a moment when, if he were really actuated by views of aggrandizement, he might have realised them without the slightest difficulty, was put forth and extolled as the best interpretation that could be given of the treaty, and indeed the only interpretation worthy of his imperial dignity. Notwithstanding all these subtle and pom-

pous declamations, the discussion is still going on, and in a direction, too, of which, I have no doubt, the country will approve.

The reader, however, who will look carefully through the whole of the treaty in question, and especially at the secret article, cannot, I apprehend, materially differ from the view which I have taken of that instrument. But, in order that he shall have the point in dispute placed before him in a still clearer light, I shall here transcribe the eleventh article of the treaty of peace, concluded between Great Britain and the Porte on the 5th of January, 1809.

"As ships of war have at all times been prohibited from "entering the canal of Constantinople, *viz.* in the straits of "the Dardanelles and of the Black Sea, and as this ancient "regulation of the Ottoman empire *is in future to be observed* "*by every Power* in time of peace, the Court of Great Britain "promises on its part to conform to this principle."

It will be observed that this article speaks of two straits—those not only of the Dardanelles, but also of the Black Sea—and that the secret article of Unkiar Skelessi limits itself to the Dardanelles. So far, therefore, there is a most material difference between the two articles. Suppose Russia to be at war with England, and both the Powers to be at peace with Turkey, then the Dardanelles and Bosphorus would be shut against both by one article, but the Dardanelles alone against Russia by the article of Unkiar Skelessi. By this arrangement she obtains a wider range than the Euxine for her ships—would be enabled to provision them at Constantinople, to enter the Sea of Marmora, and convert the Dardanelles into an outpost for the protection of her establishments in the Euxine.

Under that treaty, it is impossible for Russia to be at war with England without Turkey becoming a party to it on the side of the Emperor. The stipulations entitle him, whenever he thinks fit, to demand *secours matériels* from the Porte, not, however, for the purpose of obtaining *secours matériels*, but

something else, which it is already agreed shall be given in lieu of them; and that "something else" is the closing of the Dardanelles, and the prohibition to all foreign ships of war to enter them, "under any pretext whatever." Assuming for the sake of the argument that the word "foreign" here is applicable to Russia as well as to England, even still the advantage is all on the side of Russia, and to the prejudice of England. The Russian ships would have no desire whatever to come out and encounter ours in the Archipelago or the Mediterranean; but our ships would have every possible motive, and, I fancy, no little desire to go in, to attack the Russians in their own seas, and to destroy their arsenals and naval establishments at Sebastopol.

The whole of the remonstrances, however, which we are fairly entitled to make against the transaction of Unkiar Skelessi resolve themselves into this: that, by its effect, the Porte has ceased to be the mistress of the Dardanelles—that they are liable to be closed at the requisition, which means the command, of Russia; and that Russia, therefore, and no longer Turkey, keeps in her hand the key of those gates. Need I repeat, that that key is the token of something more than the gold ornament we see dangling at the back of an imperial chamberlain: that it is, in fact, the sceptre of the Ottoman dominions!

CHAPTER XXIII.

Turkish Regeneration—Decline of Fanaticism—Equality of civil Rights—The Ottoman Moniteur—Publicity—Judicial Institutions—Pressure from without—Payment of Indemnity—War—Resistance—Naval Armament—Protection.

The reader will, I trust, do me the justice to believe that I have not embarked lightly in this discussion. While I remained in Constantinople, and since my return home, I have

devoted to it my best attention. It is a question involving the most important interests of the Turkish people, and very serious interests and national feelings on the part of England and France. I am deeply impressed with the responsibility which any writer assumes, who deals with a topic that may find its issue in a partial or general war, of which, from every motive of religion, humanity, and civilization, I entertain the utmost abhorrence. My anxious desire is, if an individual may so speak, that the governments and the enlightened classes of the two most powerful nations in Europe shall direct their thoughts to this momentous subject *in time*, in order not to provoke a war, but to prevent it.

But it will be said that the Turkish empire is falling to pieces, that it is again in danger of being attacked by Ibrahim Pacha, and that the Sultan does not possess sufficient power to render his authority respected. Assuming all these assertions to be indisputable, to what do they lead? Are we to be told that the Ottoman sovereign is to stand for ever in need of foreign assistance to suppress the turbulence of his own subjects? If this rule were to be applied to the other states of Europe, no such thing as the practical independence of a nation could exist upon that continent. The subjects of the Sultan are now discontented because they are oppressed by his subordinate officers. Let the causes of complaint be removed, and obedience will return. The individual who wears the ensigns of royalty in Turkey, though a weak and vain prince, happens to have a taste for European institutions and manners; and he has, in point of fact, already made very considerable progress towards an entire revolution in the habits of his people. He commenced this great enterprize by destroying the Janissaries—a body of men who, with arms in their hands, effectually controlled the state for centuries before his reign, sustained for their own purposes the fanaticism of the lower orders, and fomented every mean and dangerous prejudice and passion throughout the provinces.

The reader will have collected from the preceding pages of this work, that the age of religious frenzy has altogether passed away in Turkey. The Mahometan establishments of an ecclesiastical nature are, very generally, in a ruinous condition; and the people have utterly ceased to attend the mosques in the crowds which formerly displayed so much ardour of devotion to the Koran. The frequent returns of the plague amongst them, its long continuance, its remarkably fatal character, and the wide range of indiscriminate slaughter over which it rushes, as if urged by some supernatural energy, are, to my contemplation, the lurid flashes of a destroying angel's wing, sent to announce the termination of the sway, which, for inscrutable purposes, had been permitted to the doctrines of the false prophet.

It is certain that, within this last year or two, the notion has been generally propagated for the first time among the Turkish inhabitants of Constantinople, that, instead of freely exposing themselves, as they did formerly, to the pestilence, under the impressions which they derived from their doctrines of fatalism, they now begin to understand that they may avoid it by proper precautions. Hence, when the contagion is around them, they shun the polluted atmosphere of the mosques. They have already yielded to the prohibition issued against the use of opium; they are beginning to ventilate and white-wash their houses; they keep at home, nurture their natural good sense, and attend to the education of their families. These are important changes in the habits of the people; and no mathematical demonstration can be clearer than this, that such changes as these are but the precursors of others still more important.

It is a remarkable fact, although unknown in England, where religious differences even still produce very serious differences in political privileges and rights, that the most perfect equality in these respects prevails in Turkey. It is not long since a firman was issued, securing even to the Jews

in that country all the privileges which any other person can enjoy there—an example of toleration which the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland has still to follow. The Divan, under the directions of the Sultan, has prepared, and commenced putting into execution, extensive plans for the education of the community, without, I believe, any distinction of religion. The plan contemplates the erection of colleges and universities, which of course must require the assistance of time, and of a more abundant treasury than the Sultan can at present command.

An official newspaper, entitled the "Ottoman Moniteur," has been published at Constantinople for the last eighteen months. The Turkish copy, printed in a beautiful type, is first issued, and it is followed in a few days by a French copy, extremely well executed in all its departments. I visited the establishment where these journals are printed, and I saw no inferiority in any of its arrangements to those which supply our own community with intelligence. They had not indeed the steam-press, and now and then an irregularity occurs in the days of publication; but these are defects which may be easily amended. The press exists—it affords the example of sound, and I must add, even of free discussion, upon the most important subjects: and this is more than any of the northern capitals of Europe can boast of.

The names of the principal public officers throughout the empire are periodically announced in the columns of the "Moniteur." Even this is a proclamation, warning them that they are acting under a responsibility, which is not to be abused with impunity. Their conduct is openly commented upon; and praise and censure are distributed with impartial discrimination, according as merit justifies the one, or malversation the other. The provincial governor can no longer perpetrate any serious outrage upon the personal rights of those placed under his authority. Rules have been established for the guidance of these satraps throughout all the branches

of their office; and the slightest departure from those regulations, which evince the utmost regard to the dictates of humanity and justice, is punished in the most exemplary manner.

One would think that Mr. Hume had been lately a member of the Divan; for there is hardly any class of expenditure which has not undergone a thorough revision, with a view to cut off every source of outlay not absolutely indispensable to the service of the state. Much still remains to be done, with a view to place the internal revenues of Turkey upon a uniform and stable foundation; but this is a difficult task, requiring a higher state of political knowledge, and greater experience in fiscal combinations, than the Divan as yet can possess. Even upon this great subject, however, something has been done, and preparations for more extensive improvements are in progress. The duties payable in Turkish ports upon foreign merchandize are very unequally charged; and the British importer has to complain of the great advantages secured to his Russian rival in this respect by the treaty of Adrianople. Nevertheless, the trade of Turkey with England, as I have already stated, is constantly increasing.

The judicial institutions of Turkey are all based upon principles of simplicity, equity, plain good sense, and economy. In the foundations of its jurisprudence no essential change is required; but the officers charged with its administration are frequently incompetent to the performance of their duties, and open to corruption. These abuses must be wholly eradicated in the course of a few years, if the Sultan be *left free to follow his own course.* So, also, the ancient municipal institutions of Turkey are famed for their simplicity and excellence in every respect. They only want revival, and the hands and thoughts of honest men to carry them to the highest perfection. Ten years of internal tranquillity actively devoted by the Divan to the completion of all the ameliorations which that body, under the inspiring guidance of the Sultan, has at this moment in view, would prepare the community for the great crowning

achievement—a general representative assembly, where the Mahometan, the Armenian, the Greek, and the Jew might be seen consulting in one common spirit for the welfare of their common country.

I fearlessly maintain that no such result as this can ever be practicable in Turkey, unless she be protected without delay against the "pressure from without," to borrow a most appropriate phrase from the most distinguished statesman of our age. That pressure is a Russian pressure—it is that of a cyclop who is sidling nearer to her every moment, in order that by his mere weight he may at length fall and crush her to the earth. Let us understand each other clearly throughout this discussion, and, above all things, let it be perfectly well felt that that pressure must be removed. Upon this point there must be no reserve. The Russian ambassador must not be "viceroy over the Sultan."

In order to accomplish this object, England and France should guarantee to Russia the payment of the balance of the indemnity now due to the Czar from the Porte; and upon a convention being signed to that effect, Silistria should be evacuated. If such a guarantee be offered and refused, British and French troops should occupy the Chersonesus, or peninsula, which is situated between the Hellespont and the Gulf of Melanis, and the allied fleet should anchor in the Bosphorus. There would, probably, be no necessity for making any pecuniary advances to the Sultan to enable him to meet his engagements; but if a loan of five or six millions sterling be necessary for that purpose, as well as with a view to enable the Sultan "to set his house in order," he will *then* obtain it, without any difficulty whatever, in the London market.

These reasonable arrangements need not be embarrassed by any discussions about Wallachia, Moldavia, or Servia. If I be not much mistaken, these provinces will be enabled in due season to assert and maintain their own independence. Our business is at present with Turkey; and I apprehend that the

most phlegmatic statesman can hardly say that there is any thing visionary in the course of action of which I have given the outlines. Should overtures proceed in the spirit of these suggestions from England and France to Russia, and should they be coldly received, trifled with, objected to, reasoned against, refused, let every weapon of diplomacy be blunted in the contest of mind against mind—but quickly—without protocols—without congresses—by means of a few short notes, within a limited time. And, finally, if all the means of negotiation be exhausted—if the designs of Russia upon Turkey be open and avowed—then let Russia proclaim her unjust WAR!

From the constitution of human society, such as the CREATOR has been pleased to frame it, one community of men has no means of vindicating its own rights and dignity, when deliberately outraged by another, except by superiority of physical force, and of skill and courage in directing the application of that force. It is to be lamented as a defect, for which no remedy can be found in a peaceable order of things, that no tribunal can possibly be established to which one great nation might appeal for redress when injured by another. Consequently, war becomes of itself an institution for the administration of justice, though clothed with terrors, and attended sometimes with a waste of human life which no good man can behold without anguish. But the patriot must forget his heart, when his hand is to be raised for the defence of his country, and of her independence and interests, abroad or at home. It is an imperative duty on us all to avoid war if we can do so with safety—but the moment that safety is brought into question, to talk of forfeiting our national honour, in order to spare our blood, is to provoke fresh aggressions, until no honour can remain worth the sacrifice of an insect.

If war, then, should become inevitable, let us at once take up our shields. The telegraph has but to whisper to those shapeless masses which have lain for some years reposing, like so many stranded whales, on the waters of Chatham, Ports-

mouth, and Plymouth, and suddenly, as if waking from a long sleep, they stretch forth their arms, put on their apparel, brace their mighty limbs for the battle and the storm, gather their thunders around them, and, unfurling their ensigns, go forth in all the majesty of collected strength, the arbiters of offended justice, the champions of a roused and indignant people.

For England, war this year rather than the next—for the next rather than the years to follow—because now we are armed, and Russia has still her period of *eight years* of preparation to complete. Her treasury has been exhausted by her preliminary efforts for the subjugation of Turkey, and by the enormous profusion of her corrupting policy in all quarters of Europe. Besides, a war now would be necessarily a maritime war alone—in a few years hence it would require half a world of troops. No blood would now be shed if the Chersonesus were occupied, and our fleet were in the Bosphorus. Let us protect the Sultan until he shall have matured the reforms which at present exist principally on paper—until he shall have again become a *Power*—until he shall have recovered Silistria—built new fortresses on the Danube, signed the acts of absolute independence for Moldavia, Wallachia, and Servia, and opened his first Parliament—then Turkey will be safe; and whether Christian or Mahometan, as to the majority of its population, it cannot long remain behind the other nations of Europe in the career of prosperity and freedom.

CHAPTER XXIV.

St. Sophia—Armenian Religion—Mustapha—Departure from Constantinople—The Hellespont—Change of Climate—Greek Seas—Sirocco—Mitylene—Pocket Winds—Gulph of Smyrna—City of Smyrna—Madame Maracini's—"Of Course"—Hind Cutter.

WHILE I was at Constantinople, two circumstances occurred of a remarkable character—at least the Christians as well as the Turks deemed them so. The Turkish fleet had gone down to the sea of Marmora for exercise. The Sultan one day went in his steam-boat to inspect them, and as he was ascending to the Admiral's ship, his diamond-hilted ataghan, which was fixed as usual in his cincture, by some accident got entangled with a rope and fell into the sea! It was the most ancient weapon of that kind in his possession: he wore it on state occasions as one of the most peculiar tokens of his legitimate succession to the throne, and it was now lost beyond all hope of recovery, for the waters were unfathomable!

The same week the capital was visited by a succession of high winds and heavy rains, during which one of the domes of the celebrated temple of St. Sophia, now a mosque, fell in! Like the domes of St. Mark at Venice, the concaves of these structures were ornamented with mosaiques, the *ground* of which, if I may use such an expression in an inverted sense, consisted of small solid squares of glass, gilt under the surface—that is to say, the original glass surface is gilt, and then another surface is added to it by a process of fusion. I went to visit this mosque, without having obtained a firman for the purpose, and saw a number of men engaged in removing the ruins of the dome, amongst which they found an abundance of these mosaique glasses. I bought a few of them as memorials of an event which, taken in coincidence with the other just

mentioned, was imagined by many persons to be ominous of great changes in the Ottoman empire.

I am, I must confess, very much disposed to think that the Armenian form of religion—which is Roman Catholic—will sooner or later prevail over both the Greek and the Mahometan in that country. The Greek priests at Constantinople are a grossly ignorant and mean-looking set of men, who are incapable of exercising any influence whatever on the people around them; whereas the Armenian clergy are well educated, always neatly attired, respectable in their persons, of grave demeanour, and most exemplary conduct. I usually heard mass in one of their churches, and I was struck by the solemnity with which they performed all the offices of the divine service. They have no organs, but they are never without choirs of men, from whose fine bass voices the ancient Gregorian Kyrie Eleison, Gloria in Excelsis, Credo, and Canon, came forth like the resound of the primitive ages of the church.

Though unable to enter St. Sophia, I saw sufficient of the building on the outside to prevent me from taking the trouble of procuring a firman. It is a great lumbering-looking edifice, devoid of every feature of architectural beauty. I went, however, with my friend Mustapha, to visit the mosque of Suliman the Magnificent, which, together with that of the Sultan Mehemet, may be considered as among the finest specimens of Moorish taste now in existence. They are spacious, airy, and extremely graceful-looking edifices; but they have an unfinished appearance in the interior, for they are *still* without their *destined* altars!

Mustapha, by the way, is a character, and a good one. I believe he was originally a Maltese; he speaks English well, and has lived with the successive British consuls at Pera for more than twenty years. He is the consul's factotum, and, for this reason, found it convenient to adopt the turban. Whenever I wanted his assistance to go over the mosques or bazaars, Mr. Cartwright most kindly gave him permission to attend me.

He is a cheerful, willing, intelligent fellow, with a look of *bonhommie* which at once prepossessed me in his favour. He is full of anecdote, never tired of walking or talking, and feels it a point of honour not to let an Englishman depart from Stamboul without having seen "all the lions," including even the "slave-market," which I regret to say still exists. However, I am assured that this disgrace to the metropolis of a reforming sultan will soon be removed.

Having staid ten days at Constantinople, I became anxious to set out on my way home, and accordingly took my passage for Smyrna in the *Spitfire* sailing-packet which, luckily for me, had been detained a week beyond its usual time, by the continued prevalence of southerly winds. Towards evening, on the day after I made my engagement with the captain, the wind changed to the north, and as every thing had been prepared, our anchor was raised at eight o'clock (26th Oct.) and we proceeded down the Marmora with all our canvass right before the breeze. I turned into my berth at ten, and never awoke until seven the next morning, when I was delighted to find that we were rapidly approaching the Hellespont. The morning was misty, but soon after we passed Gallipoli, and entered that celebrated canal, the sun shone out, and displayed in bright colours the castles of Abydos and Sestos. The captain, Mitchell, an Englishman, an excellent sailor, a truly hospitable provider, and in every way an obliging and well-conducted person, pointed out to us the spot whence Lord Byron swam across the sea from one shore to the other. The beauties of the Hellespont are not to be compared with those of the Bosphorus. The hills on either side are low and monotonous; nevertheless, here and there a cottage prettily situated, a garden neatly cultivated, a brook shining in its silver path down the gentle declivity, brought back to my mind in brilliant colours those happy thoughts of early days, when Homer and Euripides were seldom out of my hands. The former, by the way, who frequently mentions the Hellespont, usually desig-

nates it as the "broad Hellespont," an epithet to which no one would think it entitled who had ever entered it for the first time, from the sea of Marmora. It is very nearly as narrow as the Bosphorus as far as the Dardanelles, where it opens into a magnificent sheet of water, which probably the bard had frequently contemplated from the Trojan shore.

I had heard that vast preparations were in progress for repairing and strengthening the fortifications of the Dardanelles, both on the European and Asiatic banks of the strait; but I observed no symptom of activity about them, though in consequence of the wind failing us just as we came in sight of the castles, we were obliged to tack from side to side, and thus obtained a near view of both. We sailed slowly by the Troy founded by Alexander, on what he deemed to be the ruins of the Troy of Homer. The topographers have settled the controversies upon this subject by assigning to the latter what is now a barren plain—but though barren and desolate to the eye, teeming with memories destined only to perish with the sun by which, as we passed, they were illumined.

We all felt to be in a new climate—the climate of the ripened spring, as the mountains of Ipsara, Tenedos, and Mytilene rose upon our vision. The air was clear and warm; and the sky, and waters, and distant hills were clad in the same transparent robes of azure. Here and there upon the "broad Hellespont" Greek boats, with their striped picturesque sails, were crossing the waves, or stealing along the shore, where the landscape was animated by flocks of sheep and goats, and peopled by the creations of a mind that to this hour has found no rival amongst a race of beings to which he scarcely seemed to belong.

There is a beauty about these seas which must be seen in order to be fully appreciated. The waters are so transparent that I could very clearly see the fishes disporting themselves at some distance beneath the surface. The atmosphere is so pure, and the sky so serene, that every object moving in the

sea, or visible on the land, was defined in all that exactness of form which stamps the picture as the work of a master. The sails of distant vessels, coming down or going up the Hellespont, looked as white as snow.

The sun set behind the peak of Tenedos, and we floated onwards with baffling winds until we passed Cape Baba, where we were met by the sirocco, or south wind, which I experienced for the first time, and found rather uncomfortable. The stars shone out in all their radiance, and the mountains and headland heights stood out distinctly revealed, not a vapour streaking the boundless firmament.

Our cutter rolled a good deal during the night, the wind blowing right against us. We contrived, however, to work our way the following morning (28th October) into Sigri, an excellent little harbour in the western coast of the island of Mytilene, where we cast anchor. We were scarcely snug in our berth when a hard gale came on, and continued to blow the greater part of the day; even the waters in the harbour were so much agitated that we were unable to go ashore for several hours. Three or four merchant brigs came in soon after us, apparently pleased with their good fortune in having escaped the fury of the storm.

Towards evening I went ashore with the captain. The village was crowded with Turkish pilgrims, who had landed from two of the brigs, which were bound for Alexandria. The village was a picture of wretchedness, protected by an old fortification which I attempted to enter, but the guard refused me permission to pass beyond the gates. I went into an old mosque, the minaret of which had fallen down; the whole building threatened to follow its example. I bought some melons and grapes, which were tolerably good. Port dues were demanded of us, which, after some negotiation, the captain paid.

When we returned to the cutter the sea was perfectly calm in our harbour. A fine turtle floated on the surface, but it

disappeared before we could catch it "napping." The sun set in more than ordinary splendour behind the small high island of Istrate, at some distance from us, but his last rays continued to glow for awhile upon the varied and rugged heights of Mytilene. A golden flood of light was in the air behind Istrate, while the skies all around were tinged with a roseate hue. At night lightnings played on the Lesbian hills, and the fishes that came now and then to the surface of the waves sparkled like fire flies with all the beauteous colours of the rainbow. Not a star was to be seen in the upper regions of the heavens, which were as dark as the face of an Ethiop.

We got under weigh at eight in the morning (29th), and proceeded on our course towards Smyrna, leaving behind us the brigs, which we were informed had been contending for the last seven days against the south winds, so that our friendly breeze seemed not to have at all passed beyond the Dardanelles. I remarked this to our captain, who observed, in his good-humoured way, "Lord bless you! sir, nothing is surprising in the Egean seas. I can assure you that I have often seen four or five ships, who had been together for a while, all tack off suddenly in different, and even opposite, directions, as if each captain had a wind of his own in his pocket!" In point of fact, our northern ally did not accompany us even so far as the Dardanelles; we were borne beyond them by the current, which set down through the Hellespont, so that we literally outran our wind.

Ipsara came in sight, but was soon lost again amidst the vapours brought on by a squall which compelled us to ride under bare poles. Then the sun shone out as brilliantly as ever, disclosing towards the south the magnificent mountain ranges of Chios, those of Mytilene still frowning on our left in all their ruggedness. We passed by the mouth of the harbour of Caloni, which runs into the middle of the island. The weather continued squally and variable until evening,

when the north wind, having again conquered all his foes, found us out once more, and we steered right for the Gulf of Smyrna. A heavy sea rolled out from the Gulf of Sandarlick, against which we had to contend for some time; at length we found ourselves on the smooth waters of the Gulf of Smyrna, and proceeded gallantly on our way, although the rain poured down in torrents, and the atmosphere was loaded with vapour. The wind having again failed in his duties towards us, we were obliged, very much against our captain's usual disposition, to let go the anchor at ten o'clock.

Our admirable little cutter was once more under full sail at daybreak (30th). The shores of the Bay of Smyrna were unfortunately covered with dense clouds; these, however, cleared off partially now and then, and opened views of scenery, which, when beheld in all their extent and beauty, are, I have been informed, very little inferior to those of the bay of Naples. The bay of Smyrna is wholly surrounded by hills, some of which are curiously peaked; and beneath them, towards the sea, are olive plantations, gardens, groves, villas, mosques, and minarets, dispersed with the most picturesque effect.

The city of Smyrna was soon within sight, and before it were anchored upwards of a hundred vessels of all nations, including an Austrian ship of war, bearing the flag of Admiral Dandolo, and the British cutter *Hind*, commanded by Lieutenant Coleman. The wind blew strongly almost right against us, which compelled our captain to tack constantly from shore to shore, under full sail, the edge of our vessel, and sometimes the mainsail itself, being washed by the rough and foaming waves. It was well that we had the utmost confidence in our captain's discretion, as it is very certain, according to the opinion of several English seamen, who observed our course with great anxiety, that we had too much canvass spread, and that we ran every moment the risk of running under the waters to an unexpected grave.

At ten we happily anchored, but it was noon before we could land, on account of the violent agitation of the sea. I went to Madame Maracini's very comfortable hotel, where I took up my quarters. I lost no time however in proceeding to Salvo's, the great resort of our naval officers, where some eight or ten midshipmen were engaged at billiards. They informed me that the British fleet was at Vourla, a well-sheltered harbour on the southern shore towards the mouth of the gulf; that H. M. S. the *Portland,* which had joined the fleet a few days before, was ordered to proceed to Napoli, to relieve the *Madagascar*, which was going home, but that it must have departed the evening before, and that I had no chance of being in time to procure a passage to Greece.

Upon further enquiry I learned that a small packet plied regularly between Smyrna and Napoli; that it had sailed for that destination a few days before; would have to perform a quarantine of seven days; then return, wait for ten days at Smyrna, and then sail again for Napoli. This was still more disagreeable intelligence, as the idea of being obliged to remain at Smyrna for nearly three weeks was by no means in accordance with my views. By some accident I learned that a Mr. Lewis, brother of the English clergyman who is stationed at Smyrna, had been lately at Vourla, and that he could probably give me some information as to the movements of the *Portland.* I found this gentleman at his brother's residence, and learned from him that his leave of absence as a military officer being expired, he was desirous of obtaining a passage to Greece, and thence to Malta on his way home; that he had been a week ago to Vourla, heard that the *Portland* was daily expected, but that as soon as it had shipped on board the *Caledonia* two thousand stand of arms, which it was to bring out, it would not delay a moment in getting under weigh for Napoli, and that "of course" it had already gone.

Now these words "of course" have, under all circumstances, appeared to me to be the least convincing phrases of

argument in our language. I perfectly well knew that my good friend the north wind, which only the evening before had blown right into the gulph, would have necessarily detained the *Portland* at Vourla; that during the whole morning the weather was rough, and the wind variable, and that if the *Portland* had departed at all, it most certainly had not gone "of course," unless, like some of the magical vessels described by my late captain, it had got in its pocket a wind of its own. I paid a visit to the *Hind* cutter, where I was received in the handsomest manner by Lieutenant Coleman, who rather to my annoyance seemed altogether ignorant of the words "of course." They were not in his dictionary. The *Portland*, he said, had arrived four days ago, was under immediate orders for sailing to Napoli, and *must* have gone. What! with the wind against her? Yes—she was *ordered* to be off, and must have tacked out! He then took me to his cabin, and produced a decanter of capital sherry and some biscuits; whereupon we talked away as if we had been the most intimate friends of forty years. On my taking leave, he said that he was going down to the fleet the next morning, and if I had any fancy for taking a peep at that superb spectacle, he would be most happy to give me a passage, which would only occupy two or three hours if the wind were fair. I readily accepted his offer. On returning from the *Hind*, I called on my late friends of the *Spitfire*, who assured me that the agent of the fleet had still some stores to transmit to the *Portland*, and that, considering the state of the weather, which had again become squally, it would be impossible for that ship to "be off" until the next morning. "Now, I know," said Mitchell, "that you are a lucky fellow, and that if you be not wanting to yourself, you will get your passage to Greece."

CHAPTER XXV.

Voyage to Vourla—The British Fleet—The *Portland*—Captain Price—My Hammock—Bocca Silota—Cape Colonna—Greece Enslaved—Greece Free—Greek Climate—Reign of Mind.

THERE were several Englishmen, French, and Americans, at Madame Maracini's table where I joined them at dinner. I soon after retired to bed, and slept until five o'clock the next morning, having kept a lamp lighted all night, lest I might be "wanting to myself." I rose, paid my short account at Madame's, very much to her regret that it was not "a little longer," and was "off" with all my baggage, for the *Hind.* We sailed at half past seven for Vourla, every body on board being "quite convinced," that the *Portland* had gone. In about an hour and a-half, we arrived within telescopic view of the fleet, when I heard a young gentleman, who was on the look-out, announce that a ship was getting under weigh. Every telescope on board was immediately in requisition, and in a few minutes it was agreed on all hands that the ship, which had already proceeded on her first tack to depart from the gulf, was no other than the *Portland,* which "of course" had gone—which *must* have gone—which was under immediate orders, and could not have avoided obeying those orders in spite of wind and weather!

We neared the fleet rapidly, and Lieutenant Coleman fortunately having letters for Captain Price, commander of the *Portland,* made a signal to the Admiral's ship to that effect, which was immediately answered by another signal addressed to the *Portland,* desiring her to wait for letters. I was in the humour to be pleased with every thing; but even if that had not been the case, I should have been insensible to all great impressions, if I had not admired the superb spectacle which was now spread before me. Vourla is a village about five

leagues to the south-west of Smyrna. The bay is one of the best for stationary quarters on the whole of the Asiatic coast. It is protected from the winds that blow up the gulf from the Egean by a bold and lofty promontory, and from the land-winds by mountains which stretch round the shore. Within the bay the whole British fleet was anchored, consisting of the *Caledonia*, 110 guns; the *Britannia*, 110 guns; the *Thunderer*, 84; the *Canopus*, 84; the *Talavera*, 74; the *Edinburgh*, 74; the *Endymion*, frigate, 50; the *Childers* brig; the *Scout* sloop; and the *Medea* steamer, which had just arrived in eleven days from England.

The flag of the admiral, Sir Josias Rowley, was flying on board the *Caledonia*, which looked like an immense fortification floating on the waters. When we approached sufficiently near, our boat was lowered, and the transfer to it of all my luggage, of four seamen, Lieutenant Coleman, and myself, was but the operation of a moment. In a few minutes I ascended the ladder of the *Caledonia*, was introduced to the admiral, stated my request for a passage on board the *Portland* to Napoli, sanctioning my motion by exhibiting my letters of introduction to all our foreign ministers on the route home; obtained an order for my passage, as desired; told the fine old admiral all the news of Constantinople; saw him sign the order produced by his secretary, which was given in charge of an officer of the *Caledonia*, whose jolly-boat was waiting to take us to the *Portland*; committed myself to the said boat; flew along the waves, which gave us occasionally a good drenching; arrived alongside the *Portland*, which had slackened sail; mounted the deck where most of the officers were assembled; made my bow to Captain Price, who, upon reading the order, received me in the kindest manner; shook hands with the officer who had attended me; saw his boat off, and myself perfectly at home on the shining deck of the *Portland*. Since that moment the words "of course," and "I am quite convinced," have been blotted out from my vocabulary.

Never having sailed in a man-of-war before, I now found myself in a world altogether new to my habits, but extremely interesting, as a sphere full of peculiarities, which immediately engaged all my faculties of observation. The *Portland*, of fifty-two guns, having on board 420 men, is one of the handsomest ships in our navy. The perfection of system, the rapidity, the silence with which every change of sail was effected, were among the first objects that won my applause. We had baffling winds to contend against, and necessarily resorted to every kind of tack which might enable us to cheat our atmospheric foes, and escape from the gulph. The arrangements for combining the strength of parties of men in different quarters, for the purpose of accomplishing the same object—the precision with which the successive manœuvres were executed—the suddenness with which the deserted deck was crowded—the crowded deck deserted—as if the men were called from their tombs, and sent back to them by the voice of an enchanter, were to me surprising in the extreme.

Captain Price and I speedlily became friends. He had the goodness to invite me to his own table, whither we were summoned at three o'clock, by the band playing the "roast beef of old England," a tune that brought up all the associations of my early childhood, as I had not heard it since that stage of my existence. The first lieutenant, Burridge, who has the name (and, I believe, from what fell under my observation, most deservedly) of being one of the best seamen in that class of his Majesty's service), sat at the foot of the table; the purser, Mr. Cooper, and two or three other gentlemen were present. All were much interested in hearing the news from Constantinople, to which, according to my notion, an excellent dinner, graced by a bottle or two of champagne, imparted a most agreeable zest. Tea soon followed in the captain's cabin, where I might have easily imagined myself in a London drawing-room, fitted out in a very elegant manner. The hospitable occupant opened his collection of books for my amusement;

assigned a writing-table to my use, furnished with the usual implements; desired me to consider his cabin as my own during the voyage; and, more than once, laughingly congratulated me upon my singular good fortune in reaching the *Portland* at the very instant of departure.

We remained in sight of the fleet almost the whole day: towards evening, ship after ship began to fade from our horizon; and, at length, a formidable wind springing up, we turned Cape Burnu and made for the Bocca Silota. A hammock was prepared for me in the room next to the cabin, and curtained by a large signal flag, which reached nearly from one side of the apartment to the other. The stepping-stool to my couch was a cannon, mounted, and prepared to ask any friend at the wrong side of my castle a civil question, if it should become necessary. Captain Price's hammock was suspended at the opposite end of the same apartment, and curtained in the same manner. During the night there was what sailors call a "stiff breeze," amounting almost to a storm. But a hammock is certainly an invention handed down among men from the days of Paradise. It combines every requisite for wooing one to sleep—and that sleep too as much superior to the lethargy of a four-post feather bed, as genuine old Madeira or Sherry is to what the gods of Lombard Street call "London Particular."

Unless the *Portland* could be turned upside down by any chance, my individual body cared no more for tempests than if they were the breath of a sleeping kitten. I certainly felt my repository, during some unascertainable part of the night, describing a very considerable segment of a circle, in consequence of the plunging of our vessel through the angry waves. Nevertheless, I knew I was under the care of my countrymen, and that my simple business was to sleep on—a business which, I may say, I executed to my own entire satisfaction, until seven o'clock the following day (1st November), when saluting the

beauteous, clear, cold, morning, I found that we had passed through the Bocca Silota, and were already leaving the mountains of the Negropont and the island of Andros behind us.

Tyne soon was visible far on our left, and beyond it we thought we could perceive through the telescope even Myconi and Delos. Syra was distinctly seen. We passed between Macronisi and Zea, Thermia being in the distance. While we were looking for the latter, the smoke of a steam-boat, which was passing below the verge of our horizon, was discerned. I conjectured that this was the boat which had been expected for some days at Smyrna, in order to proceed to the Black Sea and the Danube, for the purpose of completing the steam-navigation of that river. Captain Price hoped it was a special steamer from England, charged with dispatches for the fleet, and ordering the admiral to sail for the Bosphorus. My supposition turned out, however, to be the right one; although, for reasons altogether Russian, the steam-navigation of the Danube has not been, to this hour, extended beyond Galacz. The boat, however, is now well employed between Smyrna and Constantinople, where it is established as a regular packet.

We were almost becalmed at the entrance of the Gulf of Athens. To be detained, however, by any circumstance, in such a sea, amid the isles that "crown the Ægean deep," in the neighbourhood of Sunium, whose immortal associations, as Lord Byron truly said, "gleam along the wave," the sixteen columns of Minerva's celebrated temple, recalling the most glorious ages of Greece, should be considered, instead of a disappointment, a peculiarly fortunate circumstance.

> "And yet how lovely in thine age of woe,
> Land of lost gods and godlike men! art thou!
> Thy vales of evergreen, thy hills of snow,
> Proclaim thee Nature's varied favourite now;

Thy fanes, thy temples, to thy surface bow,
Commingling slowly with heroic earth,
Broke by the share of every rustic plough:
So perish monuments of mortal birth,
So perish all in turn, save well-recorded worth;

" Save where some solitary column mourns
Above its prostrate brethren of the cave;
Save where Tritonia's airy shrine adorns
Colonna's cliff, (1) and gleams along the wave;
Save o'er some warrior's half-forgotten grave,
Where the gray stones and unmolested grass
Ages, but not oblivion, feebly brave,
While strangers only not regardless pass,
Lingering like me, perchance, to gaze, and sigh, 'Alas!'

" Yet are thy skies as blue, thy crags as wild;
Sweet are thy groves, and verdant are thy fields;
Thine olive ripe as when Minerva smiled:
And still his honeyed wealth Hymettus yields;
There the blythe bee his fragrant fortress builds,
The free-born wanderer of thy mountain air;
Apollo still thy long long summer gilds,
Still in his beam Mendeli's marbles glare;
Art, Glory, Freedom fail, but Nature still is fair.

(1) " In all Attica," says the poet, " if we except Athens itself and Marathon, there is no scene more interesting than Cape Colonna. To the antiquary and artist, sixteen columns are an inexhaustible source of observation and design; to the philosopher, the supposed scene of some of Plato's conversations will not be unwelcome; and the traveller will be struck with the beauty of the prospect over '*Isles that crown the Ægean deep*:' but for an Englishman, Colonna has yet an additional interest, as the actual spot of Falconer's Shipwreck. Pallas and Plato are forgotten, in the recollection of Falconer and Campbell:—

'Here in the dead of night by Lonna's steep,
The seaman's cry was heard along the deep.'

This temple of Minerva may be seen at sea from a great distance. In two journeys which I made, and one voyage to Cape Colonna, the view from either side, by land, was less striking than the approach from the isles."

"Where'er we tread 't is haunted, holy ground,
No earth of thine is lost in vulgar mould,
But one vast realm of wonder spreads around,
And all the Muse's tales seem truly told;
Till the sense aches with gazing to behold
The scenes our earliest dreams have dwelt upon:
Each hill and dale, each deepening glen and wold,
Defies the power which crush'd thy temples gone:
Age shakes Athena's tower, but spares gray Marathon."

It was to me a fresh source of delight, which Lord Byron could not have enjoyed, during his visit to these scenes, that they were no more the land of the slave; that their "foreign lord" was expelled, and that, however beautiful the following stanzas may be, they have already lost all application to the present state of Greece:—

"The sun, the soil, but not the slave, the same;
Unchanged in all except its foreign lord—
Preserves alike its bounds and boundless fame,
The battle-field, where Persia's victim horde
First bow'd beneath the brunt of Hella's sword,
As on the morn, to distant glory dear,
When Marathon became a magic word;
Which utter'd, to the hearer's eye appear
The camp, the host, the fight, the conqueror's career.

"The flying Mede, his shaftless broken bow;
The fiery Greek, his red pursuing spear;
Mountains above, Earth's, Ocean's, plain below;
Death in the front, Destruction in the rear!
Such was the scene—What now remaineth here?
What sacred trophy marks the hallow'd ground,
Recording Freedom's smile and Asia's tear?
The rifled urn, the violated mound,
The dust thy courser's hoof, rude stranger! spurns around."

Something more than the "rifled urn," the "violated mound," and the "dust" spurned by the courser's hoof, does after all remain to Greece, notwithstanding the centuries she

has passed under the oppression of more than one foreign master. I beheld Sunium restored to more than its ancient freedom, newly risen from the shades of a long night of calamity, and preparing to receive all the blessings which a condition of civilized independence can bestow upon a country.

Our first intention was, to have steered between Hydra and the shore of the mainland; but there being a strong probability that, if the wind carried us far within the island, it would altogether abandon us there, we changed our course to a more southerly direction, hoping that some friendly god would send us a pocket-full of wind, sufficient to impel our sails towards the Gulf of Napoli. But Æolus and his crew were all fast asleep; not a breath moved along the waters, and we lay all the night like a restless spirit, gadding slowly about, star-gazing.

I had often heard and read much of the climate of Greece; but all my conceptions of it fell short of the reality. I know of no principle in nature upon which the character and the boundaries of a climate can be so clearly defined as they appear in these seas. An irregular diagram, including Argos, Corinth, all Attica, the "broad Hellespont," Lemnos, and the Lesbian isle, Chios, Samos, Patmos, and Crete—an area crowded with islands, which, so far as we saw them, seemed at a distance to float on the waters literally like specks of cloud, would comprehend, judging from what I had witnessed myself and learned from our pilot, a portion not only of the surface of the globe, but also of the sky, and of the atmosphere, peculiarly cheering to the senses, on account of the golden hues that are always in the firmament, the beautiful repose and brightness that smile every where on the land, and the never-changing admirable azure of the waves. Even during the nights, in fine weather, these features scarcely vanish from the scene. But they are arrayed in their most resplendent loveliness just after the sun has retired, or at the

moment the curtains of the east are drawn back that he may again behold the favourite region of his dominions.

It is no wonder that such a climate produced Homer, Sappho, Euripides, Demosthenes, Plato, and those other illustrious poets, authors, and historians, whose names are even more familiar amongst us than those of the most distinguished men of our own age and country. The feelings of rapture created by the influence of the pure atmosphere and the cloudless sky, are subdued by the gentle whispers of the sea, and the perfect stillness of the mountains. Mind reigns in all her power amidst such Elysian scenes. The grosser thoughts associated with the tumult of life, seldom cast their shade upon the intellect that here cultivates, with true devotion, the impulses which lead to renown.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Gun-room—Mountains of Morea—Minister of the Interior—Quarantine—Deck Companions—Holystone—Mr. Dawkins—Russian Policy—Captain Lyons—Hospitality—Bay of Napoli—Bustle of the Streets—Public Walks—Count Armansperg—Modern Greeks.

We lingered about Hydra all the morning (2d November), and it being Sunday the men all assembled on deck in their best clothes at ten o'clock, when the officers read to them, in different groups, the Act of Parliament which directs that divine service shall be performed on board his Majesty's ships of war. I confess I think that this part of the ceremony is particularly objectionable. To summon a ship's company to prayers by virtue of an Act of Parliament, is, of all things, the most absurd, considering that a duty of that kind ought to be performed from motives of a nature altogether superior to the authority of mere

temporal legislation. The men then proceeded to the lower deck, where forms were arranged, and a temporary pulpit covered with a signal flag was erected for the chaplain, who read the service and a very good sermon in an unaffected and impressive manner. I observed with great pleasure that almost all the men and all the boys had books, and that they attended to the solemn duties of the hour in a very collected and becoming manner.

The captain generally dines in the gun-room with the officers on a Sunday. This, however, is by no means considered as a matter of course. It is always the result of a regular invitation formally given and as formally accepted. The officers were so good as to send me also a similar invitation, of which I was most happy to avail myself. In our walks upon deck I had already become acquainted with most of the gentlemen on-board, and it gave me great pleasure to meet them assembled together at their own table, where they appeared to be so many brothers. There was less of style about their saloon than one is accustomed to in the captain's; but the large tureen of excellent pea-soup, the noble sirloin of beef, the crowd of fowls and bacon, and stews, and vegetables of all kinds, and pies and puddings, with which their board was spread, recalled the best days of English hospitality, when the silver tankard foaming with nut-brown ale circulated from hand to hand, and the ruddy glow of health on every cheek predicted a considerable diminution in the weight of the plentiful dishes before they were permitted to take their departure.

My friend, Captain Price, who has himself a taste for the beauties of nature, summoned me early on the following morning (3d November) to witness the effect of the rising sun on the mountains of the Morea. The higher peaks were capped with snow, and as the orb rose in the heavens, new peaks similarly diademed appeared to be called into existence every moment, until they appeared a congress of kings. From time to time as we were wafted tardily up the gulf, a different com-

bination of mountain scenery opened on our view, looking like the work of enchantment, as we scarcely felt the vessel moving along the shore of these classic and delightful regions.

The Palamede of Napoli, as the acropolis or fortified capitol of that ancient city is called, was already in sight, the Greek flag bearing the cross waving over its towers; but we did not reach our anchorage before it until three o'clock in the afternoon, when the *Portland* announced her arrival by a royal salute, conducted with that rapidity and order which characterize all the operations of our ships of war. It was very fairly returned from the Palamede.

As we had some quarantine to go through, the duration of which we had not yet been able to ascertain, Captain Price dispatched a note to Mr. Waller, the secretary of the British legation, to make some inquiries on the subject. We were aware that Mr. Dawkins, our minister, had taken a little trip in the *Madagascar* with Captain Lyons to Candia, whence he was expected back every moment. Mr. Waller's reply was, that the "Minister of the Interior" had gone a little way into the country, and would return in an hour or two, when the period of our imprisonment would be settled. The title of "Minister of the Interior" for Greece—a country which had so long been the victim of misrule and oppression in every form—sounded oddly, but by no means disagreeably in my ears. How intelligence connected with such a title would have thrilled the soul of Lord Byron! Our messenger brought back a file of Galignani's newspapers, down to the 10th of October, which afforded an agreeable occupation to us all for the whole evening.

The *Madagascar*, which had been for some time within our telescopic view, came in at nightfall. I was extremely anxious to get ashore, to touch the soil of that territory so sacred in my estimation, and to behold her newly-recovered freedom in one of its earliest phases. Having letters for Mr. Dawkins, I sent them with Captain Price's dispatches as soon as the *Madagas-*

car was anchored, adding a note by way of petition for an early deliverance from quarantine.

Upon reflection, however, I wondered at myself for feeling any inclination at all to quit the pleasant quarters I enjoyed in the *Portland.* I can never look back at the days and nights which I spent on board that vessel without classing them among the happiest of my life. Should Captain Price, Lieutenant Burridge, my goods friends Cooper, the purser, and Captain M'Adam, of the marines, the companions of many of my walks on the deck, happen to see this work, I beg they will remember me when next they meet in the gun-room, and that they will assure my other friends also, "the members of the junior branches of the service," that if ever occasion should arise for her exertions, in a more active scene than the Piræus, I shall look with confidence and peculiar interest for the dispatches which shall announce that the *Portland* has "done her duty." By Jupiter! I should not like to be roaming about in a Russian ship of war, if any danger existed of her coming into hostile contact with those hosts of mine. I never saw them in their element until that day, when, in voices that had nearly burst the tympana of my auricular organs, their guns bade old Palamede "good morning!" But had they been blowing up the veteran! —

By the way, talking of tympana, I should be glad to learn from Basil Hall, Glascock, or Marryatt, who was the inventor of *holystone?* Wrapped one fine morning in such dreams as may be supposed to haunt the mind slumbering within sight of Argos, Mycenæ, and Tiryntha, I was suddenly awoke by a succession of sounds, which were to me utterly incomprehensible. They were above, around, below. I made no doubt at first that we were in for an earthquake, or rather for all the earthquakes that ever yet took place concentrated in one series of convulsions. But this idea was dissipated by the regularity of the moving power, whatever that might have been, for on it went, like the lever of some infernal engine, scraping, rubbing,

scrubbing, thumping with a noise of thunder, without the intermixture of one human sound, to prevent me from believing that the whole of this interruption to my repose was brought about by some preternatural agency. I had read of the region where unexpiated crime is punished by "weeping and gnashing of teeth;" but until *holystone* morning, I never could fix in my thoughts any thing like an idea of those sounds of anguish and unutterable despair.

Forsooth! that the captain may be able to see his face reflected from the deck as in a mirror, on stated days the men assemble at the dawn, each with a huge brick in his hand, and kneeling down—whence they call the duty *holy!* — on they go over the whole surface with their inquisitorial torturer, until they expel from the very souls of the unfortunate planks the slightest stain of transgression. When the work is over, and the polished timbers shine out with a sort of bridal smile, the captain struts forth like a bridegroom, and walks up and down his empire, perfectly convinced that he is the happiest of human creatures! The operation cannot, one should think, be pleasant to any man of common sense—and yet I do believe, if it were altered by any chemical substitution for a process not quite so horrible, the reform would lead to a general mutiny in his Majesty's navy! *Holystone* and I shall never be friends—nevertheless, I bow to it as a most venerable institution!

Mr. Dawkins came alongside the *Portland* in a boat from the *Madagascar*, which was also in quarantine, the plague having been then rife at Alexandria, which communicated with Candia, almost unrestricted by any sanatory regulations. That beautiful and fertile island is in the possession of Mehemet Ali, to whom it is rather an incumbrance than an advantage, for the expenditure which it costs him is more than double its revenue. Mr. Dawkins appeared to have been delighted with his visit to it, and talked of its lemon and orange groves in terms that made me desirous of following his example, if

time and opportunity had allowed me. But my present purpose was to get ashore as speedily as possible; and when the minister told me that he expected to see Price and myself, as well as his friend Lyons, at his house to dinner, I assured him, very sincerely, that I accepted his invitation with the greatest satisfaction. I was much pleased with Mr. Dawkins. My notions of a man's character are pretty generally formed on a first interview, and I have seldom occasion to correct them. In this instance I saw a remarkably strong and clear mind, united with a most excellent heart, and every hour of my further acquaintance with both confirmed my earliest impressions in their favour.

And so it happened, that in the evening (4th November) we really did receive from the "Minister of the Interior," permission to terminate our quarantine, which we had feared would be extended to eleven days. I stepped upon the soil of Greece with feelings which arose from the double reflection, that I touched a territory at one classic and free—classic from its own genius, and free by the genius of England! Those who claim for Russia any share in that important result must be but very imperfectly acquainted with the policy which it was her great aim to establish in that quarter. It is very well known, that the real object of the late and the present emperor was to establish principalities in Attica and the Morea, upon the system adopted in Moldavia and Wallachia. It was our business to resist and defeat that design, and we have succeeded—and that success is very much to be imputed to the exertions of Mr. Dawkins, who has represented his Majesty in Greece during the whole of the discussions, which ended in the election of a Bavarian prince as the sovereign of the new kingdom.

When I met Captain Lyons, I could scarcely convince myself that it was for the first time. There are some faces to be encountered in this world of ours which never seem new; they approach at once without ceremony, all beaming with

honesty of purpose, and thorough kindliness of disposition, which open an instant way for them to our hearts, as if they had been already its best-known and most familiar guests. I think the very first words he spoke to me were these—"Well, as you have come to Napoli in the *Portland*, assuredly you will come home with us in the *Madagascar*." What could I say in the way of thanks to such a salutation as this? "But Mr. Quin shall do no such thing," said Mr. Dawkins, "for you are going away to-morrow or the next day, and if he does not stay here as long as he can, and see what we have been doing here for the last eight or ten years, his character will be lost as a Philhellene." Imagine these sort of things going on amidst iced champagne, old port, and sweet lemons, and fragrant oranges from Candia, after a dinner cooked and served in the best English style, and zested by true Yorkshire hospitality.

As Bruno's hotel was full, Mr. Dawkins assigned to me the apartments of his private secretary, Mr. Griffith, who was engaged at Athens in superintending the progress of the building which had been purchased for the future residence of the British legation. Thus every where I lighted on a home. Nevertheless the next day finding a vacancy at Bruno's, I removed to his not uncomfortable establishment; as, however well disposed our ministers abroad may be to show every mark of attention and even of kindness to their countrymen, it is by no means fair to trespass upon their domestic arrangements beyond the strict necessity of any case that may arise.

Before making myself familiar with the streets of Napoli, my first steps were directed towards the mountain on which the Palamede is erected. Though exceedingly rough and rocky, there was not a handful of earth any where to be seen that did not produce some kind of vegetation, and all of it perfumed with that wild thymy fragrance, which I afterwards found to be characteristic of all the rocky hills I visited in Greece. I looked down upon Napoli, which lay like a map

beneath me, and beheld with a lively feeling of gratification the bustling crowds running here and there through its squares and market-places. The *Portland* and *Madagascar* were anchored at some distance from the shore; near the latter were two French ships of war, under the command of Commodore Lalande, and, almost within the port, two Russian frigates of sixteen guns each—the *Ajax* and *Achilles*, stationed there for the purpose, it was said, of carrying on the correspondence. Several merchant vessels and abundance of small craft gave the bay an appearance of animation. Argos, and its famous plain in the west, and the mountains which extend in a semicircle from its Acropolis by Mycenæ and Tiryntha, round the the head of the gulf, were reposing in the golden light of the morning sun. A goatherd was wandering about the mountains with his shaggy company and one or two donkeys, who neglected no blade of verdure they could detect among rocks, which to most other animals would have been inaccessible.

Accustomed to the laziness of the Turkish towns which I had so lately left, I was rejoiced to observe the variety of groups I met every where in Napoli, and the industry that appeared to reign in almost every habitation. French, English, Bavarians, Greeks from all the provinces, in their beautiful and gay costume, moving about with that air of freedom to which we are habituated at home, served, in my estimation, as the best commentary that could be written upon their revolution. Except at Pera, and in one of the bazaars at Constantinople, I had not seen a single book-shop since I left Vienna, and nothing like a news-room since I quitted France. Here I beheld both the one and the other; I think there were six or eight in all, and they appeared to be well frequented.

In the afternoon the public walks near the town displayed a still greater variety of costume, as the ladies made their appearance, some as pedestrians, some riding, others in carriages, attended by military officers in their handsome uniform; by

several English gentlemen, some of whom were, like myself, travellers; some, as General Church, distinguished Philhellenes; by noisy Greeks, who with their freedom seemed to have completely recovered their ancient propensity to talk; by the ministers and other members of the different legations; and by mercantile gentlemen, who appear not to have yet established their legitimate grade in the social intercourse of the country. The "junior branches of the service" intermingled also in this interesting scene, "on the look-out;" while idling soldiers, tars, nurses, and children, contributed to swell the ranks moving up and down with great regularity. Among the distinguished of the scene were the Countess Armansperg and her daughters, and the lady of the Russian envoy.

As a first external view of the changes which had already come over Greece, these exhibitions were by no means unsatisfactory. I was told, however, that beneath all this pleasant-looking surface, much rankling and jealousy, and ambition and disappointment, prevailed; that cabal was working in its dangerous sinuosities, and rivalry, or rather envy, was planning perpetually fresh disturbances; that is to say, in Greece there are men and women, as well as in England or France, who are desirous of profiting by circumstances to advance themselves and their families in the world. So much the better. It is upon such constant personal warfare, whether latent or avowed, that nations must always depend for their progress in civilization. I was glad to hear that there was so much of it already in Greece; and although one might wish to see the contest carried on with more generosity and charity on all sides, nevertheless we must take men as we find them, and look forward to a more perfect stage of society, when that which we now justly stigmatize as envy, may become emulation; when cabal shall be impotent against public opinion; and disappointment in the different walks of life shall only be the portion of those who, from want of conduct or of talents, are unfit to gain the distinctions to which they aspire.

There were evening assemblies once a-week at Count Armansperg's, one of which I attended. The rooms were crowded. The Count is a man of tried ability, of simple engaging manners, much attached by sentiment to Greece, and to every thing Greek, possessing a mind stored with various information, and remarkably well fitted to be the Mentor of the young monarch, who has lately taken into his own hands the reins of sovereignty. It has been wisely arranged that th termination of the regency was to be attended with no substantial change in the position of the Count. He is now arch-chancellor of the kingdom, an office which will enable him, more effectually even than that he lately held as the head of the regency, to carry into execution his plans for the gradual regeneration of a country and a people, capable of being raised to a most important rank among the civilized communities of Europe.

It is a kind of fashion among our circles at home to decry the Greeks as a set of knaves, idlers, banditti, swaggerers, and peculators, of whom no good can ever be augured. Is perfection, then, to be expected at once from a nation just risen from a long night of oppression, with all the marks of the manacle upon its limbs, with all the defensive stratagems of the slave still lurking in its mind? Have we no knaves, no idlers, no swaggerers, no peculators, in England? Are none such to be found in France? I know nothing more unjust, in every sense of the word, than the vituperative language which I have heard every where uttered against the Greeks since my return home. The truth is, that they are neither more nor less perfect, as to moral character, than any other people. My experience has taught me this truth, that under every phasis of civilization, whether the brightest or the darkest, the sum of human happiness or virtue, of misery and vice, is much the same, and that it generally bears about the same proportion to the number of families comprised in each community.

The Greeks require time for repairing the ruins of their

ancient institutions, and for engrafting upon those institutions, with the requisite skill, which can alone ensure success, such improvements as the new interests of society may demand. They come to the task of reform with incalculable advantages, which will enable them to accelerate their march towards a stable government, and an assured, compact, social condition. They have the press, the newspaper, the rail-road, the steam-boat; they soon will have a powerful tide of public opinion, representing not the passions, but the good sense of a decided majority of their intelligent men; they have derived from their illustrious ancestors minds capable of any thing within even the highest range of human faculties; they possess powerful muscular frames, inured to labour; they are prone to agricultural and commercial pursuits; they are easily rendered excellent soldiers, and the best sailors in the Mediterranean; they cultivate a land where, although barren mountains abound, the plains compensate for that sterility by their double harvests, when properly irrigated; and as their great object will be to *restore*, having little to *invent* in the way of government, laws, manners, arts of navigation and war, industrious occupations, whether connected with the soil or manufactures, the convenience or amusement, the wants or embellishments of social existence—they will unquestionably have fewer difficulties to contend against than any other people on the earth, struggling at the present moment to emerge from barbarity to freedom.

Many persons have lamented that, instead of a monarchy, a republic had not been established in Greece. I am not one of those persons. The purely democratic forms of government, attempted to be established in the new states of South America, have already cost those countries oceans of blood, and mines of gold; and at this hour they appear to be farther removed from the stages of peace and prosperity, than they were even when oppressed by the domination of Spain.

I have taken none of my notions of the United States from

the works of English or other foreign tourists. I have conversed with Americans; I constantly read their reviews and magazines, and, above all, their newspapers, which reflect their manners, ideas, and every day practices, as in a glass; and I find, on the whole, that a President may, during his hour upon the stage, play many more of the tricks of a tyrant, than a monarch of England would dare even to meditate; that a senate may be as obstinate and as wrong as a house of lords, without their dignity; that a congress may be, in every possible attribute requisite for legislators and statesmen, infinitely below comparison with a reformed house of commons; and that a whole mass of sovereign citizens may be actuated by feelings of the most rancorous jealousy, which enter into and disturb all the relations of life; while the loyal subjects of a king, possessed of a free constitution, which they know how to guard, may also have their political quarrels; but that the stability of the succession to the crown, of property, and of the natural gradations of rank, and the perfect capability which the lowest individual on the scale enjoys of ascending to the highest, if borne thither by his merits, and by the approbation of his country, offer to society pledges of public and domestic happiness, and of steady progressive improvement, as yet unrivalled by any other nation.

It is certain that the earliest, and, for a long period, the only, form of government, which prevailed in the various cities or states of Greece, was that of monarchy, controlled by councils of the elders, and of the great body of the people. Wisdom, or the acquisition of years spent in temperate, virtuous, and thoughtful habits, and the same qualifications which entitled a citizen to become a senator, gained for him also an unbought veneration, which naturally diffused itself over all the members of his family. Thus, an aristocracy, in the literal sense, was one of the very first products of society; and though it rarely happens that the wisdom of the sire descends in all its plenitude to the son, still, in the natural order of

things, such a transmission is presumed, and the rank and merits of the ancestor shed a lustre upon his posterity, which is guaranteed by their uncontested inheritance of his name and possessions. It is not probable, therefore, that the creation of a class of nobility was the work of any lawgiver, for it existed as soon as communities found themselves provided with a regular system of government.

In process of time, the council thus became an assembly of men, young and old, whose only right to the exercise of senatorial functions arose from descent. To establish that right, the preservation of pedigrees was necessary: it soon grew into a subject of pride, and formed a decided mark of distinction, which, while it repelled the familiarity of the multitude, attracted their respect. They were naturally as deeply interested in the maintenance of public liberty, as the people themselves; indeed more so, for they had rank and property to lose.

From the comparative paucity of their numbers, they were easily convened; the same circumstance gave consistency to their deliberations; and hence we find that in almost all the states, the council of nobles formed an integral branch not only of the legislative, but also of the executive, departments of government. The prince scarcely did any act of importance without their sanction. It was his duty to offer his own opinions in council, to hear those of its members, and to adopt that advice alone which appeared to him most conducive to the general welfare. Indeed so intimate was the connection between the senate and the chief magistrate, that they may be said to have conducted the ordinary affairs of government in conjunction. They judged of the necessity of sending ambassadors to other states, and even nominated them. They received also the ambassadors from foreign powers. They had authority to confer grants of land, and to bestow other rewards, on those individuals whose public services deserved well of the country. They were the depositories of those principles

of natural equity, and of those customs peculiar to each state, which, added to a few maxims, handed down from sage to sage, formed the only code of laws with which they were as yet conversant.

The necessity of resorting so frequently to the senate for advice, and of depending on its members for the ordinary administration of public affairs, created of itself a limit to the authority of the prince, beyond which, if he had the disposition, he had not as yet the means to force it. They were the dispensers of justice between man and man. The prince more than insinuated that he derived his sceptre from Jove, though he acknowledged at the same time that he was to frame his councils according to the laws. His race was moreover looked upon as sacred; and this species of sanctity with which he was surrounded rendered his person inviolable.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Administration of Justice—Popular Assemblies—Free Constitution—Bavarian Code—Reforms—Agriculture—Aristocracy—Argos—King Otho—Russian Intrigues—Greek Church—Synod—Russian Church—Religious Feeling—New Coinage.

GENERALLY speaking, the political deliberations of the senate were conducted upon principles of the purest liberty. Perfect freedom of opinion was the right of every senator—a right, not depending on the permission of the prince, but firmly established by law.

In all ordinary matters, then, the prince and the senate usually decided. Questions, however, whether of policy or law, in which the people were materially interested, were discussed by the senators in their presence. Justice was administered in the

forum by the elders; of the merits of the judicial decision, the people, who commonly crowded the forum, were the sole arbiters. When an elder or judge delivered his opinion, they evinced their disapprobation or assent by murmur or applause. Each party pleaded his own cause, the elders sitting in the middle of the forum, on marble seats highly polished, to remind them of the mental purity which they ought to bring to the discharge of their office. They formed a circle, held sceptres in their hands, and the people around them were restrained by heralds, whose province it was to preserve order in the assembly. Witnesses were heard as to the fact of the case, and when both the litigant parties had concluded their statements, the elders rose, one after the other, and, explaining the law, pronounced their opinions on the question at issue. That which was most agreeable to the majority of the people prevailed.

So also when an impost was to be levied, the senate and people met in general council; and if the object for which the impost was required were approved of, the people agreed to pay such tributes as were necessary, consisting of ships for foreign expeditions, corn, and cattle. The inhabitants of towns yielded regular contributions to the prince, which they levied amongst themselves; and if they held him in particular reverence, they added occasional gratuities to mark their attachment to his person.

Thus, then, in the most ancient condition of the Greek people we find all the traces of a free constitution: a king, whose power was limited by the laws, and the immediate control of a senate of nobles. We find this senate acting not only as a free legislative assembly, but also as a judicial tribunal. We find another assembly composed of the people, whose duty it was to give or withhold taxes, and act as the arbiters of justice in the last resort—in fact, exhibiting the very power which led in our own country to the establishment of the House of Commons, and the system of juries. In the towns

we discern the germs of municipalities. We see the law and the administration of justice held in the most sacred respect; and notwithstanding the many centuries that have since intervened, and the many vicissitudes through which the Greeks have struggled once more to a state of national existence and freedom, there is nothing more certain than this, that the principles of their ancient customs have never been wholly obliterated from the minds of that people.

It can be a matter, therefore, of no serious difficulty, to revive in Greece the free institutions which Greece was perhaps the first nation in Europe to appreciate and enjoy. I am aware that from the unfortunate dissensions which broke out in the regency soon after its establishment, very little progress has been effected in reorganizing the country. The attempt also which was made by that body to introduce into the monarchy a system of laws, derived altogether from the Bavarian code, was a most dangerous mistake. There was in that code no one principle congenial to the habits of the people, and the consequence was natural—the moment it was promulgated it proved to be utterly impracticable. The business of the legislator in Greece is to study her most ancient laws, and to reproduce them with such analogous developments, or such modifications and suppressions as the modern improvements in society may demand.

Preparations were already in progress at Napoli for the removal of the seat of government to Athens, and for the inauguration of the king: events which have since taken place. A legislative council has also been appointed, including the heads of every party, and although no representative assembly, no judicial tribunal, no municipalities have yet been constituted, yet measures have been adopted for the accomplishment of all these great objects. Indeed, the outlines of municipalities have been dispatched to Argolis, Arcadia, Messenia, Attica, Phocis, Locris, Eubœa, and the Cyclades. Provisional tribunals have also been established in severa

districts, which act with the consent of parties until the code of laws shall be completed. The police of the country has also been placed upon an effective footing, by the employment of a body of about a thousand men, as patroles on the principal lines of communication through the interior of the country. These officers have been judiciously selected from amongst the Palichari, who had previously been themselves the chief agents of disturbance and annoyance to the traveller. They have become now the best guardians of the public peace, because as they are well paid they have a direct interest in its preservation.

The natural mind of Greece is peculiarly favourable, from ancient associations, to the establishment of a free constitution. Fortunately, also, the government has only to refer to the early ages of that country for models of every species of enterprize by which the fertile tract of lands in which it abounds turned to the utmost possible advantage. The great evil arising from the generally mountainous nature of its territory is, that in some places the even plains at the feet of those mountains are filled with stagnant waters, collected from the neighbouring heights; while in other places the waters generated on the mountain tops escape too easily to the sea, leaving the declivities and inclined plains over which they rush without sufficient moisture for the growing season of the year. In ancient times, this double evil was guarded against with wonderful industry and success. Wherever the waters from the mountains were likely to stagnate, sewers were constructed to carry off the superfluity; wherever the torrents were too rapid, they were diverted into reservoirs, whence they were gradually distributed over the soil, so as to afford it all the advantages of complete irrigation. During the ages which have since elapsed, the sewers have been choked up, and the reservoirs have been destroyed; the consqeuenee of which is, that at the present day some of the very best parts of Greece are altogether lost to the purposes of agriculture.

The government will have simply to direct the old sewers to be cleared and repaired, and the reservoirs to be re-established, in order to render Greece for its extent the most fertile kingdom in Europe.

In the actual state of things it is probably not an inexpedient principle of legislation to say, that there shall be no aristocratical order allowed in that country. So many persons of equivocal character, of undoubted ignorance, and discontented views, would put forward pretensions to nobility, which could not be resisted without danger to the existence of the monarchy, that a general rule of entire exclusion is preferable to partial admissions. The abolition of majorats, however, I take to be impracticable as well as undesirable for any length of time in a monarchical government. When that government shall have acquired force, it can only be retained by being divided amongst the aristocracy, which will have naturally grown up in the mean time in the professional and commercial paths of life. The leading men in the senate and representative assembly, at the bar, and in the army and navy, will adhere together according to the common course of things, and form an aristocracy that will be acknowledged by the people, and must be respected by the king. Majorats ought to precede and encourage this state of society, the best that can be constituted; for I look upon the republican notions of universal equality as inconsistent with all the tendencies of the human mind, which, like flame, are constantly pointing upwards.

I spent a day at Argos, visiting, on my return to Napoli, the celebrated walls of Tiryntha, which, even in the time of Homer, were looked upon as the remains of one of the most ancient cities in the world. I rode over the plain of Argos, with a view to see the lake of Lerna, so famous in antiquity. It is now confined to a small pool, scarcely larger than the mouth of an ordinary well, but the soil in its neighbourhood is so marshy, that without a guide no stranger ought to venture upon it. My horse sunk at one place nearly up to the girth;

it was with great difficulty that the animal extricated himself, and if my stirrup-leathers had not been fortunately on a spring buckle, which allowed them to come away horizontally, I might have been seriously involved in his danger.

Mr. Dawkins took the earliest opportunity which court etiquette could permit of presenting me to the king; Captain Price was presented at the same time. I need hardly add that we were both received in the most gracious manner. Otho, though little more than nineteen years of age at that period, had already assumed a grave dignity of demeanour, well calculated to temper the feeling of distrust naturally generated by the appearance of youth in a station of so much responsibility and importance. He possesses all the advantages of a fine figure, and a countenance peculiarly German, beaming with benevolence, and not unmarked by that order of intellect which, though slow to perceive, is strong for the retention of useful principles, and likely to act with great circumspection in reducing them to practice. Dressed in the blue uniform of a general officer, he met us without any pageantry, being quite alone in a handsome saloon, to which we were conducted by his chamberlain, addressed us in French, and the conversation turning at once upon the approaching removal of the seat of government to Athens, he dwelt upon the topic with evident satisfaction. He had words of courtesy for Captain Price, whom he hoped to have the pleasure of frequently seeing; alluded in emphatic terms to the uniform attachment which his predecessor, Captain Lyons, (1) had shown to

(1) While this sheet is passing through the press, I am happy to observe that Captain Lyons has succeeded Mr. Dawkins as British envoy to the court of Athens. Lord Palmerston could not have possibly made a more happy appointment than this. Captain Lyons enjoys the entire confidence of the King, as well as of Count Armansperg; and I am convinced that the interests of Greece, in her relations with England, could not have been committed to better hands. It is very well known that Mr. Dawkins had been anxious for the last two or three years to return

the cause of Greece on every occasion, and became animated by the prospects which, he said, every succeeding day served to extend and confirm for the interesting country of his adoption.

The king appeared to be on the most cordial footing with Mr. Dawkins, with whom he chatted for a while, and then, turning to me, inquired very minutely about the route I had taken in the course of my journey. I did not omit to inform his majesty that I had passed through Munich, which, under the auspices of his royal father, was becoming quite Italian in the beauty of its streets and palaces, and the splendour of its public galleries. I described in a few words my steam-voyage down the Danube, as he appeared to have been already aware of the enterprize for the navigation of that river, and seemed to take a lively interest in its success. The topic led to the projects which were entertained for imparting to Greece all the advantages of the steam-boat, and he very justly remarked that to no country in Europe could that invaluable instrument of commerce and civilization be more eminently useful, than to that with whose happiness he was now identified. We then withdrew, Captain Price and I both simultaneously observing, after we came out, that the audience had left most agreeable impressions on our minds, the more especially as we had not been altogether prepared for the intelligence and the winning simplicity of manner which the young monarch displayed.

The general feeling among the best-informed persons whom I had encountered at Napoli was, that Otho appeared likely to prove an excellent sovereign in every respect, and that his reign promised to be tranquil and prosperous. Russia, as usual, had continued the attempts which her agents

home, as, in fact Englishmen are in general desirous of doing, who have been long engaged at a foreign station. But his services are of that class of which the country ought not to be long deprived, whether available at home or abroad.

had carrried on from the beginning of the Greek revolution, with a view to prevent the establishment of free and permanent institutions. Her policy every where out of her own empire is, "divide that I may rule." Disturbance, apprehension, and anarchy, in any quarter, serve to divert the attention of Europe from the designs which she is maturing in the East, and no opportunity, be it ever so slight, is neglected on the part of her numerous agents, which may contribute to carry the suggestions of that policy into execution.

It was thought that the arrangements made with respect to the Greek church, might have been converted by those persons into an inexhaustible source of discord as between the Greeks themselves, and as between the nation and its Roman Catholic sovereign. The head of their church having always been the patriarch, residing at Constantinople, it was found necessary, when the Sultan recognized the formation and absolute independence of the new monarchy, to terminate its ecclesiastical connection with an individual, who might be supposed capable of acting under the Sultan's influence. I believe it is strictly conformable, in such cases, with the discipline and practice of the Greek church, to confide its spiritual government to a synod of its own bishops, whose authority is in every way a competent substitute for that of the patriarchal office. This alteration from the usage of some centuries was rendered necessary in Greece by the restoration of its national existence; but the Russian minister would not afford it his sanction, conceiving that the patriarch's authority (which would be Russian and not Turkish) ought not to be interfered with, or that, if it were, the only course left open for the church of Greece to adopt, would be to place itself in communion with the patriarch at Moscow!

Co-religionism has been the uniform and, I must add, the powerful pretext, by the judicious use of which the agents of Russia have succeeded in extending her authority over the

whole of the Sclavonic tribes, spread through Moldavia, Wallachia, and Servia. It is the apology for her intermeddling with the affairs of Turkey, and it was boldly insisted upon as an excuse for the assumption, on the part of the Russian minister at Napoli, of a sort of ascendancy in the councils of the new kingdom. The appointment, however, of a synod of bishops for the purpose of presiding over the spiritual government of the church, exhibited a determination on the part of the Greeks to maintain in every way the independence they had acquired. This course of proceeding did not suit the views of the Emperor; accordingly it was declared by his agents that the church of Greece, by separating itself from the authority of the patriarch, had become schismatic, and therefore he could not acknowledge it any longer as the Greek church,—it became a new sect, with which he could hold no communion.

Forthwith an Archimandrite, several priests, and a full choir, were dispatched from Petersburgh to Napoli, and a chapel splendidly ornamented was erected behind the Russian minister's house, in which the service of the *true* Greek church was performed every Sunday. This chapel was open to any Greek who felt that his countrymen had become *heretics ;* and the fears of the conscientious, as well as the scruples of the timid, it was hoped, would in due course of time swell the attendance at the chapel, and of course excite religious controversy all over the country, which could only produce one effect, that of creating a Russian party sufficiently powerful to overwhelm any other that existed, or that might arise, in Greece.

Never was a Russian intrigue carried on with more ingenuity, or with a more plausible appearance of success, than this affair of the schism; nevertheless it resulted in a complete failure. The chapel was well attended, because the choir was attractive, and the congregation "fashionable;" but no impression was made by this manœuvre upon the country. It is not at all improbable that this failure may be attributable to the general indifference which prevails in Greece upon ques-

tions of an ecclesiastical nature. The condition of dependance to which the Greeks had been so long inured, the destruction of their temples which took place during the war of the revolution, and the general ignorance of their clergy, necessarily contributed to impair, and almost to extinguish very generally the strong sense of religion by which the subjects of the Byzantine empire had been in former ages peculiarly distinguished.

My days passed like hours in Napoli, but I was obliged to economize them, as I hoped to reach Corfu in time for the steam-boat to Ancona, whence I intended to hasten homewards. To leave Greece, however, without visiting Athens, would be a sort of classical high treason; and so having engaged, through the agency of Bruno, a pair of horses at five drachmas each, I set off (8th November) for Epidaurus. One of the first measures of the regency was to restore all the denominations of the ancient money of Greece; accordingly, a new coinage, the dies for which were beautifully executed, was manufactured at Munich, consisting of gold pieces of twenty drachmas, silver crowns of five drachmas, silver drachmas, half and quarter drachmas, copper pieces of ten, five, and two leptas, and single leptas, the latter being worth about half a farthing, while the drachma is equivalent to little more than eightpence of our money.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Travelling in Greece—Hieron—Mysterious Companion—Dangers of the Glen—Speculations—Inclinations to Brigandage—Alarm—A Virtuoso—Epidaurus—Greek Servant—Fresh Arrivals—On the Look-out—Mosaics—A Sail—Ruins—Arcadian Scene—Pastoral Happiness—Diorama.

TRAVELLING in Greece I soon found to be a very different affair from travelling in Turkey. A small jog-trot, or rather

a walk at a snail's pace, is the usual rate of journeying throughout the Morea, at all events. Indeed, the bridle tracks, which are called roads, are so rough, that it would be impossible for any body, except a Tartar, to think of getting on at a much higher estimate of space than about three English miles an hour. The same horses are often engaged for journeys of three or four days successively—no great hardship either, seeing that they seldom steal over more than twenty miles of ground in a day. The guide usually walks behind, driving the luggage-horse on before him; or, if he be a lazy rascal, as he most commonly is, he perches himself on the unfortunate animal's neck, between the portmanteaus and carpet-bags, as well as he can; falls asleep, sings or whistles at intervals, as his fancy suggests, neither he nor his companion in idleness appearing to have any one object in this world at heart, except the diffusion of the smallest possible quantum of exertion over the most ample measure of time.

We left Napoli at noon, and at three o'clock stopped at a fountain, where, extricating from my *sac de cuisine* a fowl, I dined. Near Ligurio I turned off from the main path to the right to visit the celebrated ruins of Hieron—ruins indeed, for, with the exception of a few remnants of the benches of the theatre, scarcely any thing remains to be seen. I have no doubt that excavation would disclose abundant memorials of antiquity in that quarter. The sacred grove itself, however, fully repays the trouble of finding it out. It is called sacred, because it was dedicated to Æsculapius, and, being situated in a glen, must indeed have afforded a most delightful retreat from the summer and autumnal suns, to the voluptuous inhabitants of Argos, Hermione, Epidaurus, and even of Athens, when those cities were in their "high and palmy state."

The ravine runs to a considerable distance between two lofty ranges of mountains, the declivities on each side being thickly planted by nature with every variety of tree and shrub, that could afford not only shade but beauty to the scene.

These trees and shrubs descend along the shelving sides of the mountains, from the summits on either side to the very edges of a torrent which rushes through the deep vale below. The murmurs of tributary streams falling into the torrent from the neighbouring rocks—the songs of birds—the waving of branches, when the salubrious breeze awoke them from repose—the incessant sound of mineral fountains, celebrated for their efficacy in cooling the fever, or recalling the failing energies of the human frame—the proximity of magnificent temples, where the votaries seldom prayed for health in vain—and of a most splendid theatre, in which the dramatic muse of Greece exhibited all her charms, were well calculated to bestow that character of sanctity upon the grove, which its appearance justifies even to this day.

As we rode along through this glen by winding tracks, which sometimes led us close by the bed of the torrent, where we seemed lost in darkness, sometimes to the higher declivities, whence we could scarcely discern the foam gleaming in the partial lights that here and there found their way to the profound abysses, we were suddenly joined by another traveller, wrapped in a cloak, whose cunning face and reserved manner by no means attracted my confidence. I must frankly confess, that I looked at first upon this apparently-accidental junction as an affair arranged between my guide and the captain of a band of brigands. As we were passing under the outer gate of Napoli I had noticed, as I thought, a mysterious communication pass between my friend and a person of somewhat military aspect, who was riding in the same direction with ourselves; but as he soon after turned away to a small inn in a field off the road, where he dismounted, I had forgotten the circumstance, until after examining the countenance of this stranger, I convinced myself that he was the same man.

Beyond the usual words of salutation, no signs of recognition escaped either of my companions. We rode on in silence. The track through this mountain forest being so narrow that

we were obliged to proceed one after the other, the guide in front, I next in succession, and in the rear he whom I took to be a decided bandit. Happening to look behind me, as my horse stopped to drink from a stream that crossed our path, I detected the gentleman in the act of replacing a pistol in his belt, where the handle of an ataghan also presented a formidable state of preparation if any thing were meditated against myself, who had no arms at all—not even my umbrella, for I had lost it.

Before my animal had sated his thirst my guide returned to the stream, where we three now met face to face, the horses being, as I believed, the only members of the party who rejoiced in the circumstance. I thought they never would have done drinking the crystal element, that bounded from the rocks above us with a mirthful unconsciousness, which at the moment was to me peculiarly enviable. I wondered within myself in what way the man at arms had resolved to attempt the accomplishment of his object; whether he meant to begin operations with his ataghan, or reserve it as his last resort; or whether he intended preluding with his pistols, and if so, in what part of my anatomical system he expected to deposit their contents. I made no doubt at all that I was in serious peril of my life; but I was also equally resolved on two things: first, not to be taken unawares, and, in the next place, to become myself the assailant, the instant I perceived any movement unequivocally meant as an act of hostility. At all events, there must be a battle for it, thought I, and it was not impossible that I might succeed in pushing my antagonist, horse and rider, to the edge of a precipice, whence he might most probably find his way to the regions below.

My quadruped, having sufficiently refreshed himself with the cool spring, went on. I had no objection to this change, as, if the guide immediately followed, which happened to be the case, he would interpose to some extent as a shield against any sudden attack, and possibly might receive the first bullet

intended for me. Our course lay over rocks, which nevertheless were so thickly wooded that we were frequently obliged to stoop our heads in order to escape from the impending branches. At length we were compelled by the frequent recurrence of such impediments to dismount, and allow the animals to take their own way. Here then was a moral certainty that this particular route, impassable for equestrians, was selected by my guide for the special purpose of executing the conspiracy that had been planned against my person and purse! Once or twice it occurred to me that my best mode of proceeding would be to turn brigand myself, to begin by calling on the party last mentioned to produce his said purse, and to divide the spoil amongst us, according to the laws of regular highway honour; but, on second thoughts, I was contented with giving myself notice of a motion to that effect, to be discussed on a future day.

No more sunshine gilding the rocks that stood out from the bosom of the glen, it assumed every moment frowns of deeper horror, which almost made my blood run cold. We had hitherto been riding or walking on the southern side; but our horses, still without their riders, turning suddenly down to the bottom of the dark ravine, my companions ran on rapidly before me, and disappeared through the shade. Had they faltered in their purpose, or left me to warn their associates of my approach?

Every body knows that the glen which we were then traversing abounds in green marble of the most beautiful description. I consequently became a virtuoso, and a collector of specimens, with which I loaded my pockets and hands, not knowing how soon I might have occasion to turn the said specimens to purposes appertaining more to the useful than the ornamental. My path was so distinctly marked over the polished marble that I could not mistake it, the more especially when I heard voices shouting below, towards which, labouring though I was under the strongest suspicions, I instinctively

directed my steps. Judge of my surprise when I found four or five other equestrians drawn up at the other side of the torrent, while my guide, who was calling out to me with all his force, held my Rozinante, and bade me mount immediately. The moon, which had just risen, placed the whole party in her light, disclosing three figures fully accoutred, a woman on a mule, with a baby in her arms, and an elderly-looking person wrapped in a cloak. That little pledge of peace, sleeping on her mother's bosom, restored my feelings at once to their natural channel. I crossed the torrent, joined the party, who gave me to understand that they also were bound for Epidaurus; and as my late companion was nowhere to be found, I concluded that he had deemed it imprudent to track his intended prey any farther.

The clacking of several mills, turned by the mountain streams, announced to me the agreeable intelligence that we were not far from our destination for the night. The tidings were soon confirmed by the barking of many dogs. A few scattered houses, with lights gleaming from them, left the matter no longer doubtful, when my guide, trotting on towards the sea-side, delivered me and my luggage at a house, where the only symptoms of hostelry I beheld was a fire, near which stood an old coffee-pot, and a wooden platform hard by a stone wall, by way of a divan. Alas! thought I, can this be Epidaurus?

I went out to see whether there was any vessel in the harbour bound for Ægina or the Piræus, but I could discover nothing of the kind. The water was so unruffled, that if I could have ferreted out a small boat, and prevailed on its owner to row me across the Saronic Gulf, I should have very much preferred spending the night at sea, rather than in the abominable hut to which my guide had consigned me. But there was not so much as a cock-boat to be met with any where.

My late companions had gone to take up their abode with some of their friends in the village, being also, as I afterwards

found, like myself, on their way to Athens. They could offer me no hospitality: but they very kindly sent a Greek servant, who spoke French, to attend me—and I must do him the justice to say, that a more obliging fellow, or a more persevering candidate for what he conceived to be a vacant place in my travelling establishment, I have rarely encountered. He made capital coffee for me mixed up with eggs—bought or stole a pullet, which he got boiled for me in a few minutes—brushed my clothes—cleaned my boots—and saw me safely deposited on the divan upon a clean mat, and under the cover of a very decent counterpane of his own, which he had placed at my service—and then removing the lamp to the fire-place, recommending me to go forthwith to sleep, and bidding me good night, went away, assuring me that he would return early in the morning.

Mine host, who had hitherto been absent, made his appearance soon afterwards, followed by two or three other guests, who had just arrived from Napoli. After a slight supper upon cold fried fish and a little garlick, these persons, who appeared to be merchants, disposed of themselves on another divan, which was prepared for their use, and I resigned myself, after the toils and apprehensions of the evening, to sleep, with a feeling of confidence which was not broken even by a dream until about seven o'clock, when I rose and bathed in the sea.

The sun was already risen over Ægina, but not a sail was any where to be descried. It appeared that all the vessels belonging to Epidaurus had been detained by calms on the Athenian side of the gulf for the last three or four days, and might be kept there for another week, unless some friendly zephyrs should awake and waft them back to our shore. And then there was no small chance of the said zephyrs continuing to blow on in the same direction, so as to prevent our stirring, perhaps, for another week from the bay. Here was a delightful prospect for a man in a hurry! Oh, how I wished for one of our steamers, when looking over that tranquil sea, unruf-

fled by a breath of air, shining like a lake of molten gold in the morning sun; the splendid highlands of the promontory of Methana on my right; Ægina, like a cloud in front; on the left, Salamis, scarcely visible even as a cloud; the Parthenon just below my horizon. I was nevertheless chained as it were to the rock on which I stood, incapable of leaving it behind me!

I pored on the waters at my feet until I could count the very pebbles at the bottom of the sea, and even distinguish all their various colours. It was, in fact, a Mosaic ground of the most beautiful description, strewed with pieces of marble, red, blue, green, purple, yellow, snow-white, black as Indian ink, the shades of each being brought out with peculiar brightness through the crystal waves in which they were set. I have no doubt that we owe to such a picture as I then beheld the original idea of those inlays which the pure taste of antiquity multiplied every where on the floors, the walls, the roofs, not only of the temple and the forum, the courts of justice and the theatres, but also of the most ordinary private habitations. Here was indeed,—

> "A sapphire throne, inlaid with pure
> Amber, and the colour of the showery arch."

The marbles were countless which shone through the transparent element. Nature, who never ceases to attract the human eye to her operations, even when decorating the most solitary recesses of her domain, seemed to have felt a delight in scattering around her those "patens" worthy of the "floor of heaven;" as if she especially wished to present a model for those works of art which have been carried by the genius of Greece and Italy to so high a degree of perfection.

Ascending the mountain on my left, I discerned a single sail stealing closely round Ægina, in order to profit of the land breezes, there not being a breath of air on the sea; but just as it grew larger on my eye, and I could perceive the canvass

fluttering, the head of the vessel being, as I thought, turned towards Epidaurus, it gradually faded away again, and disappeared towards Cape Colonna! Another speck soon became apparent in the direction of Salamis, which I watched with unaverted gaze until it assumed magnitude and form as it approached the small island of Cecryphalos, where it lay for some time motionless. At length the form became more distinct, but it was nearer to Ægina, and steering, as I apprehended, in the same course as the vessel which had just gone to the open sea. But I was happily wrong—I could perceive the waters sparkling round the boat, which indicated that the oars were at work. There would have been no necessity for such labour if this vessel were bound in the same direction as the one that had just passed, and I therefore concluded that our harbour was her destination. I was satisfied on this point by an old sailor whom I met on the beach as I returned to my *hotel* for breakfast; and as my Greek, who was in attendance, added that the vessel would be in about noon, but could not expect a land-wind to bear her out again until night, my business was to kill the remainder of the long day in the best manner I could.

Having already made acquaintance with the northern part of the shore, I bent my steps through some osier-marshes, and ascended a bold hill on the south, overlooking the sea, where I found myself in the midst of a vast pile of ruins, the greater part of which, however, was buried beneath masses of wall thrown down, long rank grass, weeds, and brambles. This must have been the site of the magnificent temple of Æsculapius, to which Epidaurus owes its celebrity in ancient history. The stones used in the foundations appeared to me to be nearly as large as those which form the walls of Tiryntha, with this difference, that the former are cut in regular squares, and are connected with each other by means of cement. They are much corroded by the winds and rains of many winters. but their artificial forms are manifest. From these ruins I wan-

dered along the rough rocks, until, climbing higher and higher, I reached the summit of a mountain, to the south of which the shore is suddenly withdrawn to a considerable distance in a western direction, and in a horse-shoe form, but no longer rocky—the entire theatre rising gently from the water's edge to a considerable height, which shut out all the world behind, being clothed with the richest verdure. It was an Arcadian scene. Sheep were browsing on the green declivities, attended by shepherdesses. Two or three remarkably neat cottages were in the valley, and near them groves of the olive-tree. The hill-sides exhibited clusters of flowers, from which a fragrance came on the undulations of the atmosphere. Two or three brooks rambled down towards the sea, shining like veins of liquid silver: and by one of these a group of maidens was actively engaged in washing linen, which they spread on the shrubs or the grass to dry. The shepherdesses, as usual, were occupied with their distaff and spindle; a boy tending some goats was playing on a reed a wild song, which I could not hear sufficiently to give any idea of; and some of the maidens at the stream, while their linen was drying, sang, or ran about, or bathed their feet, or combed their hair, which they afterwards tied up carefully, little thinking all the time that an Englishman was noting down their "simple annals," haply for the amusement of his own countrywomen.

Here was a secluded pastoral little world in itself, inhabited by a few fishermen, who, with all the male members of their families, were probably pursuing their labours higher up the gulf, while the females, in their own way equally industrious, presented a picture of perfect happiness—to them the more perfect, because they were unconscious of being observed. I flattered myself that this fair scene had witnessed none of the horrors of the late revolution—that it was even exempted from the common lot of Turkish oppression, and that, like the rescued Pompeii, it appeared exactly the same to me as it might have appeared to Homer in those days of his

early inspirations, when he gathered from nature herself, and from actual acquaintance with the men and manners of his time, those inexhaustible materials which he afterwards embodied in his divine poetry.

Around and beneath me were some of the very promontories and islands which Nestor, and Agamemnon, and Menalaus, are supposed to have visited or observed—the seas upon which they sailed, and above me the same cloudless skies which they admired. The veil of ancient years seemed drawn back from this spot; it was a diorama through which I beheld the age of Ulysses, when the occupations of the prince or the princess scarcely differed from those of the goatherd or shepherdess, as now pictured before me. Throughout Argolis, where I then stood, as well as Laconia, Messenia, Arcadia, Elis, and Achaia, and as far as Ithaca, which lay behind me, the manners of the princes and the people of those early days were marked by a beautiful simplicity, of which I was at that moment strongly reminded.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Bargaining—Departure for Athens—Voyage—The Piræus—Athens—Vandalism—The Parthenon—Its Entablatures—Mysterious Fire—Curiosities—Athenian Improvements—Road to Corinth—Megara—Thunder-storm—Isthmus of Corinth—Cutting the Isthmus—Difficulties of the Enterprise—Levels of the Seas—Corinth—Change of Climate—Vostizza.

While I was rambling among the mountains, the expected boat came in, and announced its departure again for Athens in the evening. The patron, however, as soon as he heard of my return, came to me, and expressed a wish at first that I should engage his vessel for myself alone, in which case he

would sail immediately after sunset, when a land-breeze usually springs up. This was a regular attempt at imposition upon an Englishman, which impressed me with the conviction that some of my countrymen who have travelled in Greece must have conducted themselves as consummate coxcombs. Their highnesses would not condescend, forsooth, to make a voyage from Epidaurus to the other side of the gulf in a small packet, in which their precious persons were liable to be contaminated by the touch of a native Greek, or other passengers bound for the same destination. My new acquaintance was clearly of opinion that it was beneath my national dignity to reject his offer, the more especially as he proposed to place his vessel at my service for the moderate sum of one hundred drachmas!

Even my Greek valet could not stand this: he indignantly bade the fellow go away, but at the same time asked how much I was inclined to give, he being himself on his route to Athens, and not at all indisposed to perform it free of expense. I said, what was perfectly true, that I had not the most remote intention of engaging the vessel for my own use, the more especially as several persons, to my knowledge, were waiting at Epidaurus to procure a passage to the other side; and that, moreover, far from feeling any disinclination to sail in company with a motley group of all sorts of travellers, it was the thing of all others I preferred. So far as I was concerned, the boat being open to the atmosphere, they might fill it mast high if they liked, and I would take my chance with the rest. "How much are you to pay," I asked my kind adviser, "for your passage?" "Oh, sir," he replied, "I am but a very poor man—they will perhaps make me pay them two drachmas and a half." "And quite enough too," I observed, "for it is but a voyage of a few hours, and for my own part, I shall pay no more."

The first negotiation having failed, the patron had the impudence again to come to me, and inquired whether, at

all events, I might not wish to engage the best part of his vessel for myself, which I might have for the reduced sum of thirty drachmas. I went to look at his boat in order to understand what he meant by the "best part." It was a common coaster, without any deck; the bottom was filled with small gravel for ballast; and upon this gravel, unless I had a mattress, which I had not, I was to take my seat wherever I chose! I thanked him for his obliging offer; but gave him to understand that I had no ambition whatever to distinguish myself in any way from his other passengers, and that I would pay the ordinary fare, whatever that was, but not a Lepta more. "Then," said he, angrily, "you shall not come in my boat." "Very well," I replied, "then you shall not sail to-night—at least not without me." Upon explaining the matter to the port-captain, who had to endorse my passport, he observed that I was quite right, and that he would not permit the vessel to leave the harbour if such an attempt at extortion, of which he was quite ashamed, were persevered in on the part of the patron, whom he immediately sent for, and reproved vehemently as a disgrace to the *kingdom!* My Greek, who was my dragoman throughout this proceeding, seemed very much astonished at this new revolution. So then, he said, or rather seemed to say, Englishmen are to be openly plundered no more!

I went on board with my luggage about eight o'clock in the evening, and took my place on the *gravel,* sitting on my portmanteau. By-and-by came in a whole crowd of men, women, and children, including my acquaintances of the glen, with beds and mattresses, on which they settled themselves at once for sleep. We sailed at nine with a tolerably good breeze, which, however, died away soon after. The night was balmy and so clear that I never thought of sleep while contemplating the azure canopy of the sky, "thick inlaid with patens of bright gold," and feeling that the Parthenon would be soon within my view. Accordingly, by the earliest gleam

of morning, while we were passing Ægina, I beheld that still glorious monument to the incarnate wisdom and genius of all antiquity. "If the progress of decay," said Mr. Hobhouse, "be as rapid as it has been for more than a century past, there will, in a few years, be not one marble standing upon another on the site of the Parthenon." I had expected to find this prophecy realized, as it was well known that the Turks, before they quitted the capital, had wantonly destroyed every remnant of its ancient lustre upon which they could lay their hands. Most agreeable, therefore, was my surprise to find so vast a pile of columns still remaining, to attest the miracles of which architecture is capable, the true gods of Paganism being the men who could conceive and embody, in a permanent form, the ideas that even to this hour are breathing amid the sculptures of that mutilated temple.

It was tantalizing to be obliged to row all the day, as not even a sigh of the atmosphere would come to our assistance. It was four o'clock in the afternoon before we entered the Piræus, where we found a considerable degree of bustle prevailing. Several Greek vessels were in the harbour, a French man-of-war was in the roads; and merchant ships, of some hundred tons burthen, were either delivering or receiving cargoes in the most systematic order. Upwards of a hundred horses and camels were waiting on the beach for employment, the road to Athens, which is at the distance of about five miles from the Piræus, being as yet chiefly traversed by animals with all sorts of burthens on their backs, although it was by no means impassable for carriages. I lost no time in procuring horses; and after riding for about an hour and a quarter through the olive grounds which interpose between Athens and the sea, where, by-the-by, companies of the Bavarian troops were encamped in wooden huts, being engaged in widening and re-constructing the road, I alighted at Casali's hotel, and was immediately shown to an excellent chamber.

A capital dinner and a bottle of genuine old Madeira compensated me for the privations of the morning; and after my bed of gravel, I found Casali's unobjectionable. But when I sallied forth the next day to explore the wonders of Athens, alas! they were no longer to be seen. The once proud city of marble was literally a mass of ruins—the inglorious ruins of mud houses and wretched mosques, forming in all quarters such undistinguishable piles, that in going about I was wholly unable to fix upon any peculiarities of streets or buildings by which I might know my way from one part of the capital to another. With the exception of the remains of the Forum, the Temple of Theseus, which is still in excellent preservation, the celebrated columns of the temple of Jupiter Olympus, and the Parthenon, nothing now exists at Athens of all the splendid edifices by which it was so profusely decorated in the days of its glory.

I therefore devoted the whole day to the Acropolis, examining with a degree of admiration which every hour rendered more and more intense, the columns and capitals, but above all the entablatures, which time had spared, or Vandalism had still left unviolated upon that sacred mountain. "Time had spared!" The phrase has no meaning here; for it is the singular attribute of these skies of Attica to embalm in their own unchangeable purity every particular form or feature, even the slightest sprig, the most delicate flower, the most minute vein and curl of the leaf, the slightest smile of beauty, which the sculptor chooses to call into existence from the quarries of Pentelicus. The very heads that grace those columns are as round and as fresh at this moment as they were in the time of Pericles. A marble, which by some good fortune had been overlooked amongst the weeds by all the despoilers, was turned up a day or two before my visit, exhibiting a cantharus surrounded by a wreath of vine-leaves. The vessel stood out from the mass to which it was attached, and

the wreath seemed as if it had just left the chisel of Phidias. In such a climate it is no poetical privilege to say, that the amaranths are immortal, rivalling those with which—

—"the spirits elect
Bind their resplendent locks."

No! it is to the human animal alone, to his impieties against the divinity of genius, to those insane passions which urge him to war against his own tribes, to the insatiable desire of indiscriminate devastation which sometimes actuates him, as if he were obeying the mandate of some evil spirit—or to what is still more debasing, the thirst of gold—rapine for the sake of restoring the shattered fortunes of a titled pauper, or of transmuting the adventurer into a parvenu—to these, thou holy pile! holy even after all the vices of our nature have done their worst upon thy fanes and altars, do we owe these prostrate columns, these fractured capitals, these loosened mutilated entablatures, bearing witness alike to the despicable dust, as well as to the redeeming god, of which man is composed.

Had the Parthenon remained perfect, it would have been the Iliad in marble—in Pentelican marble; the polished, unchangeable, eloquent dialect of exalted conception—the living model of mind for all ages, which no age shall ever rival. Minerva, for whom the temple rose, was no fable. Her reputed wisdom, the terrors which her thunders cast upon the field of war, her preference for the olive and those arts of prosperous peace of which it was the symbol; the brilliant beauty of her presence when she started at once into existence, completely arrayed in panoply wrought by the immortal artist; her immediate admission into the assembly of the gods, her love for mankind, the peculiar tutelar favour with which she looked upon Attica, her inflexible virtues, the matchless purity of her life, the pains which she took to teach kings how to cultivate the land, and the Argonauts the navigation of the seas, and the shepherdess the charms of the lute; her skill in embroidery,

painting, poetry, and sculpture, and the exquisite perfection of taste which shone through all her works, were no more than the picture which the Parthenon itself displayed of transcendant genius in all the departments of thought and action upon which human intelligence, in its most inspired moods, can be exerted.

Enough of that pile,—which, under the care of an enlightened government, may now be looked upon, I hope, as imperishable,—still remains to animate the new generations of Greece with the grandeur of antiquity. The very atmosphere of these ruins is favourable to the birth of noble aspirations. It is scarcely possible for any mind, open at all to improvement, to hold ineffectual converse with the figures that still live upon the entablatures, to mark the spirits impressed on their looks, the gracefulness with which they ride, or the power with which, standing on the earth, they rein back their proud horses, or the style in which they hold the pipe, or fling upon the air the triumphant sound of the Bacchanal drum, while dancing in procession to the temple, or returning from the fields of victory!

A sentinel, who happened to be from the island of Cerigo, perceiving that I had lingered all the day among these ruins, suggested to me that I ought not to leave the Acropolis without examining what he and his comrades conceived to be the greatest curiosity of the place. He called one of the guard, and desired him to show me the "mysterious fire," as he called it. Upon quitting the porch of the temple, I turned under this man's guidance to the right, and, descending a few steps towards the guard-house, I reached a part of the foundations of the Parthenon, which are composed of large blocks of marble fitted together without any cement. Looking in between two of these blocks, which were separated from each other little more than the eighth of an inch, I distinctly saw in the interior of the wall a pale yellow light, resembling that of a taper in the daytime.

At first I looked about to see whether this could be the result of a contrivance to procure a little fee for the benefit of the guard; but I could discover no ground whatever for any such suspicion. Neither was the sun then shining on that part of the Acropolis; and the men assured me that the illumination was much stronger always during the night. I examined one or two other apertures in its immediate neighbourhood, and observed a similar light, which they had not discovered before, and which raised their wonder in a way that convinced me, that they at least were quite unconscious of any fraud. There was no smoke or heat about the spot; and the wall was of a thickness of at least from three to four feet, if not more. I concluded that the glow proceeded from some phosphoric substance or insect in the interior of the structure; and had only to lament that it was not known to the priests of the Parthenon of old, as it would have then been handed down to us as the divinity of some oracle, or as a fragment of the vestal fire which was never to be extinguished.

The sight of the Areopagus; of the levelled rock, where the orators usually harangued the people of Athens; the place where the tribune stood; the indentures in the precipice where the laws and acts of authority were inserted and promulgated; the cave said to have been the prison of Socrates; the remarkable stone, still as slippery, and almost as brilliant as ice, down which childless women are said to have made a practice of sliding, in former days, as a remedy for barrenness; and some few other "lions" of a minor character, served to while away another morning. I flattered myself, moreover, that a long narrow street, filled with shops of all sorts, which had escaped the destroying hand of the Turks, preserved an air of antiquity, and that the variety of objects which it displayed—such as fruits, grocery, wine, spirits, haberdashery, tailors, shoemakers, smiths, winders and weavers of silk, manufacturers of tassels and gold lace—might often

have served to divert the intense thoughts of Demosthenes from the agitations of the forum; of Euripides from the theatre; of Aristides from the calumny by which that just man was assailed on account of his virtues. But I should never have done day-dreaming, if I had remained longer at Athens; and so having gone with Mr. Griffith over the handsome mansion, then nearly finished, for the British legation, visited the new buildings which were going on in its neighbourhood, intended to be the "West End" of the capital; observed the lines of new streets marked out amongst the ruins of Old Athens, and the very neat houses already completed in different parts of the new town, where the saw and the mallet were busy in every direction, I engaged a brace of horses, and behold me on the road to Corinth.

The said road, by-the-by, was no road at all; nothing more than a bridle path among the hills, all-fragrant with that peculiar thyme which enables the bees of the neighbouring ranges of Hymettus to produce the most delicious honey in the world, upon which said honey I feasted like a heathen god every morning. I slung a jar of it to my saddle-bow for a little stranger, who, I expected, would greet me on my arrival at home. The very rocks of Greece are redolent with some sort or another of vegetation, which can have no nutriment except from the atmosphere. Quitting the hills, we descended to the sea-shore by Salamis and those gloried waters where the Persian hosts were overwhelmed by a handful of freemen; passed through the ruins of Eleusis; and stopped for the night at Lyssa, in a sort of inn where horses, mules, donkeys, and men all slept, I may say, together under the same roof. The habitable part of this stable was floored with clean planks, on which a hair-cloth was spread for me. The owner of the mansion gathered himself up in a corner; several Greeks were strewed about in various directions; and I, wrapped in my cloak, found even the plank and hair-cloth preferable to a couch of gravel.

About two o'clock in the morning (13th November) my guide summoned me to the field, when I gladly pursued with him our way to Megara. Sagittarius and his congregation of worlds shed a brilliant lustre over the sky, which scarcely began to grow pale until we heard the cocks of the said Megara sounding their jocund horns. We soon after entered on the isthmus of Corinth, keeping still by the side of the sea; Salamis on our left; the sun rising over Ægina; Negropont, a cloud in the distance; the Epidaurian mountains standing out like giants of air; the sea beneath us a lake of crystal; the rocks over which we were wending, tossed into all sorts of jagged forms; here impeded by straggling roots of trees; there by trees overthrown in some storm; now menaced with destruction by masses depending over our heads; now in danger, if our animals made a false step, of making no gentle transition from the precipices above that beauteous mirror to the floors which shone beneath it, mosaiqued though they were all over by the hands of all the Nereids.

But for these perils, against which we occasionally guarded by allowing the horses to seek their own fortunes, I was sometimes compensated by following our course through patches of the forest, still rich in foliage, through which vistas of the Ægean opened, such as no pencil can ever imitate. Trees and islands, skies and water, may be represented; and airy perspectives, shown through a break in an old wood, may be wrought by a master into a semblance of enchantment; but here lived the enchantment itself, the ever-changing mystic lights and shades, which cannot be brought down from heaven; the memories of bright ages, of heroic deeds, of matchless poetry and eloquence, and of undying names, consecrated and preserved in one vast temple of glory, where fame always points her sceptre to the past.

At noon the Acropolis of Corinth burst upon the scene, and in a few hours afterwards we were in the town, where I spent the night—and such a night!—Heaven preserve us! I

never before heard such a storm of thunder, never beheld such lightning as raged for four or five hours without interruption round the rocks of that lofty citadel. Had it not served as a natural conductor of the electric fluid, I hardly know how the houses still remaining at its feet could have escaped destruction. The rain came down in deluges.

When I ascended the mountain next morning, I questioned the Bavarian sentinels as to their feelings during the night, and they confessed that they had never known what a war of the elements was before, and that they had the strongest apprehensions about their powder-magazine. But happily no accident occurred. The earth and the lower hills all round were smoking with the vapours raised by the sun from the waters with which they were saturated. Nevertheless, I beheld, even before I was half-way to the top, the Ægean and the Gulf of Lepanto almost touching each other, and inviting the hand of commercial enterprize to complete the channel, which has been already partly excavated, for uniting the two seas.

I know of no measure which could be devised for the benefit of Greece, so well calculated to develop its natural riches, to excite a general spirit of industry amongst its people, and to ensure to that industry the most ample returns, as this project, no modern invention, for annihilating the Isthmus. A line of direct communication would thus be established, by which all those parts of Greece, separated from each other by the prolongation of the Morea, and by the difficulties attendant on the navigation round its capes, might be immediately united. Missolonghi and Lepanto, Patras, and even Gastuni, would thus be brought by steamboats within a few hours of the Piræus. The Gulf of Lepanto, where now scarcely a sail is seen, would become another Bosphorus, the highway for merchant-vessels and steamers from the Ionian isles to Athens and the Cyclades. The whole coast of Albania would take an interest in the change, whose influence would extend to Naples, Ancona, and Venice, and

above all to Trieste, now becoming a most important commercial station.

Athens, which in a few months will be brought down to the shore by its rail-road, would then become an emporium of exchange of the produce of the east for the produce and manufacture of the west. Corinth would be raised to a degree of splendour which it had never known before. The stagnant waters of Lepanto would be roused from their lethargy: the shores on either side, so dangerous to health in the summer and autumn, from the quantity of rank vegetation with which they teem, would be ploughed up and cultivated—the Greek tertians and agues would disappear—population would rapidly increase, and the cotton and currants, wheat and oil, which may be grown in any part of the Morea, or of western Greece, where the rocks are not literally as bare of earth as rock can be, would ensure to the agriculturist, and the merchant, and the ship-owner, constant employment of the most advantageous description.

I apprehend that the real width of that portion of the Isthmus which still remains to be excavated does not much exceed four English miles. Two of these miles traverse a mere plain on the western side of the Isthmus, where a canal has been already cut by the ancients about eighty feet deep and three hundred feet wide. The mouth of this canal is at present closed up with sands from the Gulf of Lepanto; these sands might be easily removed, and the remainder of the excavation, which is still visible to the extent of about six hundred feet, might be rendered available as far as it goes. The only great difficulties of the enterprise would be found in the rocky ridges which extend from Megara to the Acrocorinthus, the summits of which are about two hundred feet above the level of the sea. Half the number of men now employed on the banks of the Danube would, within the space of two or three years form a tunnel through these rocks, by the process of blasting, sufficiently deep for vessels of any size to

be towed through the canal by steamers. The ancients, without our auxiliaries of steam or powder, actually penetrated these precipices under the surperintendence of Nero; although after his departure the works were abandoned. Beyond the rocks there is a remarkable ravine which might be easily enlarged, and which extends as far as the Saronic gulf.

Some persons have imagined that even if these difficulties were conquered, there would be still the insuperable inconvenience arising from what is really no more than a supposition, that the sea on the eastern side is higher than the sea in the Gulf of Lepanto. If the fact were so, the waters, if all obstruction were removed, would soon find their own level. Or, if an elevation did exist on the eastern side, and from any circumstance it were likely to be permanent, it might, if excessive, be corrected by a series of locks; if not excessive, it would have the effect only of producing a strong current down the Gulf of Lepanto, and consequently of keeping the canal clear of the sands which have been hitherto accumulating at the head of that gulf. I have been informed that the whole expense of such an enterprize as this would not much exceed half a million sterling; and it would seem reasonable to calculate the returns on the capital, after the completion of the works, at not less than from ten to fifteen per cent.

The celebrated ancient columns, each formed of one block of stone, which every traveller has noticed, are in Corinth, with the exception of the Acrocorinthus, the only objects worth attention in the way of "lionising." The town is nearly as shapeless a mass of ruins as Athens itself. But even here the "restoration" of Greece was beginning to exhibit itself in the construction of several new houses, which are built in a plain substantial style.

The road from Corinth to Patras lies principally along the southern coast of the gulf, and in spring or early summer must be delightful, as it passes over declivities thickly wooded with flowering shrubs. Even the shingle has its clustres of

bulbous roots, which when the stems are out and hung with their hyacinths, tulips, jonquils, and lilies, must give the country an appearance of gaiety unknown to our climate. We had rain and dense clouds constantly almost the whole way to Vostizza, which were the more remarkable, as the mountains on the opposite shore appeared at the same time to revel in the enjoyment of sunshine all day, and of a serene sky at night. I forget who it was of my predecessors that made the same remark: but I can bear witness to its truth. The traveller proceeding from Attica is at once sensible of a very striking difference between the temperature of the air in the Morea, and that which he had just left beyond the Isthmus.

Vostizza has been for some years, even before the termination of the revolution, a highly improving town. It is built on the site of the ancient Ægium, where the states of Achaia were accustomed to hold their general council. Being the principal as well as the most central emporium for the collection of the currants which are cultivated in the Morea, and which, indeed, have derived their name from Corinth, where the trade was originally established, it exhibits a degree of activity and an appearance of wealth not yet known in any other part of Greece, with the exception of Napoli and Patras. It stands considerably elevated above the sea, to which there is a descent from the town through what appears to be a *natural* tunnel, although art must have had something to do with the excavation itself, as well as with the steps which are formed in the rock.

A beautiful merchant-brig, belonging to the London house of Loury and Clarke, was in the bay, waiting for a cargo of currants; I looked upon the vessel with no small pride, observing the superior appearance of structure, equipment, and of order, which it displayed, in comparison with the crazy lubberly sloops and cutters by which it was surrounded. The superintendent, an intelligent Frenchman, civilly showed me over the store-house, where the currants were packed in casks.

The trade seemed to afford employment to several coopers. As the produce is brought in from the country it is paid for in hard dollars; but English goods are at the same time taken out, which are purchased by the shopkeepers of the town, and paid for in the same kind of money; and although I believe the balance of export and import is not as yet in favour of Vostizza, there is no reason to doubt that regenerated Greece has only to grow a little richer in order to be enabled to cultivate her soil more extensively, and thus become a very considerable consumer of our manufactures.

There are many handsome private houses at Vostizza, with gardens behind them, full of the most beautiful of all trees,—those that yield the lemon and the orange. The fruit being never absent from the foliage in this mild climate—for the town seems to have a "pocket-climate" of its own as compared with other parts of the Morea; the deep yellow of the mature lemon or orange forming so agreeable a contrast with the green leaf, and the fruit not yet ripe exhibiting the progressive shades from the olive to the gold, these trees realize the vision of the poets, who tell us of regions where the spring never fails to bloom.

CHAPTER XXX.

Great Plane Tree—Natural Curiosity—Road to Patras—Police—Travelling Companions—Motives of Travel—Differences of Opinion—Discussions—Settlement of Accounts—Patras—Delay—The *Europa*—A Caffiné—Parnassus—Storm—Greek Marriage—Luxurious Dog—Temple of Ceres—Bay of Patras—Ants.

There is at Vostizza a remarkably large plane-tree, which has the reputation, I cannot say how justly, of being at least two thousand years old. It is certainly very old, and the

finest specimen of vegetation that ever came under my notice. A cord drawn round the trunk would measure at the least thirty feet. Its branches are individually as large as an ordinary tree; they rise to a great height, and extend their arms to such a distance in the air, that one easily believes the tradition of numerous armies having frequently encamped beneath its "broad umbrage." The trunk is hollow, and so capacious that during the vicissitudes of the revolution, it was often used as a state prison for the confinement of prisoners of distinction. A family of five or six persons might live in it without inconvenience. The authorities of the town have, with laudable public spirit, built a solid platform around the trunk, to preserve from further violation an object which they look upon as the principal ornament of their town.

Wandering by the sea-shore to pick up shells and pebbles, if any I could find worth preservation, I lighted on a curious transparent marine substance, to which a fragment of the scales of some fish is attached. It is nearly square, somewhat larger than the palm of the hand, of unequal thickness, varying from a quarter to less than the eighth of an inch, of a chocolate colour on the side to which the pearly scales are attached, and of a limy appearance on the other. It is not a shell—it has much more the appearance of a petrifaction, but, at the same time, is nearly as clear as amber. A sprig of seaweed is spread between the scales and the formation, which is pierced on the opposite side by several small holes, like the mite holes in a cheese. A second sprig, spread out in a very graceful manner, is seen in the interior of another part of the substance, which is also corroded on the limy side, as if the object were to admit light for the display of the branches and leaves of the vegetable prisoner.

But I have still to describe the most surprising characteristics of this marine formation. When held up against a good light, in one angle, two human skeleton-heads, appertaining to one body, are to be seen, and a philosopher appears to be

examining them. At the opposite angle the greater part of the figure of a donkey is plainly discernible; the head, the pricked-up ears, the eyes, the mouth, the nose, the neck, the fore-legs, and a considerable portion of the body and one of the hind-legs, are as clearly defined *within* the substance by the hand of nature, as if they had been delineated by an artist. A sack, apparently filled, is on the donkey's back, and a man with a *turban* on his head is as distinctly seen walking by his side, with his left hand resting on the back of the animal, who looks the patient drudging creature of earth to the very life. Towards the centre, the head of an ox presents itself peeping over the scales, as we sometimes see a cow, anxious to get to its young one, looking over a gate. This transparency, or whatever the conchologists or mineralogists may choose to call it, is in my possession, and I shall be happy to show it to any known scientific gentleman who may wish to inspect it. When I first picked it up on the shingle of Vostizza, it was a little below the surface of the water. It attracted my notice from the pearly scales which were attached to it; but the moment I held it up against the sun, the figure of the donkey and its driver were so manifest, that I congratulated myself on having thus accidentally found, perhaps, one of the most unique productions of nature in existence.

The road from Vostizza to Patras is much the same in character as the greater part of that from Corinth to Vostizza—frequent ascents to considerable heights amongst rocky hills thickly wooded with the most splendid shrubs, and sudden descents, which always appeared to me so perilous, that I allowed my horse to find his own way down, I walking behind him. The path was so narrow, that the danger was thus considerably increased, and I often wondered at the carelessness of my guide in pursuing his "unmolested solitary way" far in the rear, on the top of my luggage, singing his melancholy Greek songs as quietly as if he were riding on a level pasture. For my own part, I enjoyed the scenery so much—

the ever-changing aspect of the hills over which our course led; the variety of the shrubs, the largest, the richest in flower, and fruit, and foliage I had ever beheld; the sea, whose weedy fragrance, unceasing murmur, and undulating waters, are never unwelcome to my heart; Parnassus, and its towering summits, on the other side, the abode of the Muses, the parent of the fount of Castaly—that I should have experienced no fatigue had I been obliged to walk the whole way.

Nor was it a disagreeable reflection to feel that, however favourable in times of disturbance, and during the days of Turkish oppression, these wooded hills and mountains and stinted pathways were to the habits of the brigand, I had no longer reason to be under apprehension in that respect. We were challenged almost every two hours by patrols, who were remarkably attentive to their duties, and not only civil, but respectful in the performance of them. This sense of security doubles the pleasure of a traveller pursuing his route, as I then was, unarmed, I may say alone—loneliness amidst such scenery being absolutely essential to the indulgence of those reveries, idle though they be for the moment, which I would not exchange for all the splendours of a court.

Before I set out on my journey originally, at Paris, at Vienna, Constantinople, and Napoli, several propositions were made to me by Englishmen, whose acquaintance I chanced to make—men highly accomplished, and in every way worthy of my respect, with a view of my joining or being joined by them during such portions of my tour as might coincide with the views of both parties. These propositions I uniformly evaded as civilly as I could. In a public diligence, a steam-packet, a hotel, or during my temporary residence in a town, I was always happy to meet my countrymen; for no travellers are more courteous towards each other abroad, none more frank in their intercourse, and few better informed, than the well-educated English ramblers, who may be encountered in every

part of the Continent. Many such men it was my good fortune to fall in with; and although, from a sense of delicacy, I have not always mentioned their names, they will, I am confident, do me the justice to believe, that I have not forgotten the attentions which I experienced at their hands. My time being much more limited than theirs, they frequently had it in their power to give me information, which saved the trouble of inquiry and the risk of delay; and on such occasions the assistance which they gave me was really invaluable.

But for some reason or another, which I cannot well analyse in my own mind, I have an invincible objection to companionship in travelling. Had circumstances permitted any member of my own family to be with me, I should have been delighted to avail myself of them; but that was a pleasure which I could not have enjoyed, and, debarred of it, I found my best refuge in loneliness.

Besides, I had more than once an opportunity of observing how seldom it happened that the tastes of two or more travelling companions completely agreed. When men happen to bind themselves by any engagements, whether implied or formally expressed, to go on together for any distance in foreign countries, it is wonderful how soon all the guards of ordinary courtesy are put aside, and they become entirely dependent on the temper, the dispositions, and the natural characters of each other for their respective comforts. One would turn off the high road to any distance, to explore the smallest fragment of a ruin. When his friend indulges him in his fancy, and sees, as he would see, for instance, at Thebes in Bœotia, only a few stones, and then asks, "Is this all?" it is manifest that they can travel no longer together with the slightest sense of pleasure. Thebes, though, like Marathon, it has nothing to show, is full of interest for minds of a peculiar order; while there are others, equally well cultivated, equally powerful, and, perhaps, more useful in their way, in which even the Parthenon would excite no kind of emotion.

Again, some men travel for the mere purpose of doing that which others have done; of being able to say, when they return to England, that they had seen every thing which was to be seen; that they had lived so long at Athens, so long at Venice, so long at Rome, and had made the tour of Sicily or Egypt, or visited Palmyra; and all this they shall have accomplished, thinking of nothing, dreaming of nothing during the whole period of their tour, except the comforts which they had abandoned at home, and the annoyances which they experience at every step they take abroad. Defend me from such men as these!

Again, of two travelling companions, "dear friends," one is a perfect exquisite in every department of his equipment. He carries his own bed and kitchen with him; his servant is a "non-such," and his tour is that of a mere sybarite. He has his apparatus for making coffee in his carriage; his spirits of wine to produce a flame; his Lucifer-matches, tapers, and all sorts of things, including concentrated soups in tin cases; genuine tea from Cheapside; cigars from Cuba; air-cushions for his seat; air-cushions to support his back; fur boots, and a silver mounted bottle of brandy. His companion is of kindred dispositions; but the single equipment does for both. If, by some mistake, the coffee-pot is left behind at one place; the spirits-of-wine bottle be broken at another; the "real Havannas" be stolen; the Lucifer-matches cease to give a light when applied to; the soups turn sour, or a nail make a rent in the air-cushions—it is all over with them; they may as well go back at once, for it is only *yawn* and "God damn!" all the rest of the journey!

One man is the model of precision: his breakfast is ordered to a second; he cannot wait dinner for any body beyond three minutes; the horses are put to the travelling-carriage, the step of which he ascends at a stated moment, his time-piece in his hand. His companion, never very regular in his habits,

becomes quite a sloven the moment an attempt is made to reduce his movements to anything like system; that is a restraint to which he has been unaccustomed, and to which he will not submit. Accordingly, when he arrives at the breakfast-table, the tea is "cold;" a fresh quantity is put in; that is, "waste," which, if he had got up just "ten minutes" sooner, might have been saved; and "genuine tea" is not to be had out of England! "When shall we dine to-day? Now say, for once, your own time, and keep to it; that is all I require." "Well, let me see; five o'clock." "Too soon. We shall hardly be back from the churches we engaged to visit by that time." "Then, say six." "Six! Oh, I have a private engagement at six." "Private! I thought we were companions in all engagements." "But this is a particular engagement; old friends, whom I met yesterday, and to whom, perhaps, I may have permission to introduce you on another occasion, but not now." "Hem! then, perhaps, you will dine with them; that is what you would prefer to do?" "Oh dear, no! not at all; such a notion never entered my head." "Then, will half-past seven do?" "By that you mean a quarter to eight." "Very well, be it so; a quarter to eight." "You will be punctual to the fifteenth minute." "To the second."

The day is worn off; the churches are passed through; the private engagement separates the friends, to the chagrin of one, the secret delight of the other. But chagrin will have its revenge. The deserted companion knows not what to do; the evening hangs heavy on his hands; a play bill attracts his attention in a shop window; he steps into a *restaurateur's*, takes his dinner, bolts into the theatre; gets to bed about twelve o'clock, very well knowing that his friend, who of all things abhors dining alone, is destined to pass the whole night in a fever, which however he deserves for his "private engagement!" The next morning there is a scene, which ends in

the settlement of all accounts, and the "companions" scarcely know each other at the next evening or dinner party where they may chance to meet!

"Blest be the day I 'scaped the wrangling crew!"

"But hail, ye mighty masters of the lay,
Nature's true sons, the friends of man and truth!
Whose songs sublimely sweet, serenely gay,
Amused my childhood, and inform'd my youth.
O let your spirit still my bosom soothe,
Inspire my dreams, and my wild wanderings guide:
Your voice each rugged path of life can smooth,
For well I know, wherever ye reside,
There harmony, and peace, and innocence abide.

"Hail! who the melodies of morn can tell!
The wild brook bubbling down the mountain side;
The lowing herd; the sheepfold's simple bell;
The pipe of early shepherd dim descried
In the lone valley; echoing far and wide
The clamorous horn along the cliffs above;
The hollow murmur of the ocean-tide;
The hum of bees, the linnet's lay of love,
And the full choir that wakes the universal grove."

On arriving at Patras (16th November), I visited Mr. Crowe, our consul, to whom I had a note of introduction from Mr. Dawkins, and to whom, as well as to his very amiable family, I am indebted for much kindness during my protracted stay at that place. I soon learned that I had little chance of quitting Patras for a week; that the English steam-boat from Malta, which usually touched at that port on its way to Corfu, was not likely to make its appearance until the 23d; that the Austrian sailing-packet, which plies regularly between Patras, Corfu, and Trieste, was not yet come in, though hourly expected, and that even if I were in Corfu at that moment, I had no chance of overtaking the island steamer for Ancona, as it only went once a-month, and it had gone the day before!

Having been hitherto so fortunate throughout my journey, I could afford to submit to a disappointment or two very well, and so, having no reason to grumble against my hotel, the "Europa," except that now and then, while sitting in my room, I had reason to lament the loss of my umbrella, as the roof had the *Therapian* complaint in rainy weather, I bethought me after what fashion I could best occupy my time. The vice-consul, Mr. Robinson, who happened to be with Mr. Crowe when I presented my letter, offered me his best services, and took a special interest in supplying me from his store of books, as well as from his personal experience, with ample materials for forming my opinions with respect to the actual condition and future prospects of Greece. These opinions I have already sufficiently detailed; and though they differ in some degree from the views which his own active and vigorous mind had led that gentleman to form, I am sure he will admit that we both wish to arrive at the same object, though we would pursue different routes towards its attainment.

How could I have written that I had no reason to "grumble" against the "Europa?" Alas! I had abundant grounds for vexation of spirit the first day or two, at all events; for the mind, happily, soon acquiesces in any state of things which seems immutable. My chamber was over a *caffinė*, and the floor having no ceiling beneath it, every word spoken below, every jingle of every cup, and every glass, every clash of the billiard-players, came to me with a sharpness which soon formed a melancholy contrast in my ear with

"The wild brook babbling down the mountain side!"

A large knot had given way in one of my boards, which tended not a little, together with their open joints, to facilitate the ascent of the hubbub that was going on perpetually below, where billiards, cards, coffee, wine, incessant chatter in all corners of the shop, in whatever mode the groups were other-

wise employed, seemed to be the order of the whole live-long day, from day-break to ten or eleven o'clock at night. I had heard and read much of the eloquence of the Greeks—but no description can do it justice, as far as volubility, the quantity of words emitted within a given space of time, the loudness of intonation, the violence of gesticulation, and its power of irresistible perturbation of all ideas in the mind of a disinterested and uncomprehending auditor, are concerned.

My first sensation was astonishment that the *caffiné* could thus be filled at so early an hour in the morning, that it could remain filled all the day, and that so many talkers could have been found at Patras. But I satisfied myself by occasionally spying at my friends below through the knot-hole, that the possession of a table was deemed a token of peculiar good fortune here; that, therefore, it was seized as early as possible, and not relinquished except upon conditions of regular succession during the remaining hours of the day. Cards were in every hand not employed at billiards; wine was before every body not pre-engaged to coffee; but the employment of the tongue was everywhere terribly harmonious. No murder was done, much to my surprise, though every body seemed to be at war with his neighbour.

This sort of amusement passed on for a day or two, and as I could not conquer the noise it produced, I was resolved to treat it as an element—as the roar of the sea, which it often resembled; and I thus contrived to get on so well, that it ceased to divert my attention from other matters. It commenced and ended at certain hours, and as it was uninterrupted, I thought no more of it than of any other kind of tempest. One night, however, I had a touch of rheumatism in the knee, which I had caught among the damp and showery woods of the shore of the Lepanto; it kept me in torture during the early part of the night, but at length I went off to sleep until about three o'clock A. M., when I was almost shaken out of my bed by one of those furious thunder storms, which frequent the

mountains of Greece, and which do, in fact, impress the mind with a feeling that war has broken out in the heavens, and that the gods are absolutely hurling their arsenals of artillery and fire against each other with an anger altogether above the reach of human conception.

The ranges of Parnassus may be said, whatever local names they bear, to extend into Albania, along the whole of the gulf of Lepanto. The mountains of which they are composed have the wildest shapes, and seem fond of playing at magic not only with the lights of the sun, the clouds that intercept those lights, the nocturnal vapours and their own fantastic shadows, but also with the lightnings and the hallooing of the thunders that follow them, as if spirits were chasing monsters of evil from precipice to precipice. I beheld from my windows the indifference with which those huge masses sometimes bared their bosoms to the flashes, folded again their shrouds around them, re-echoed the thunders as if in mockery, and detained the illumination round their heads as if to proclaim, that they too were worthy of the crowns of the immortals.

But all passed away like a vision of the fevered sleeper; the skies were wrapped in darkness, and the rain came down with a soothing fall, when I returned to bed, hoping that I had still some hours of good rest before me. Scarcely had I closed my eyes when another tremendous uproar suddenly broke forth, but accompanied by the sounds of guitars and tabors, the stamping of feet, with shouts at intervals, and then a chorus of wild song in which the dancers, breathless from exertion, still endeavoured to join. No words were spoken; and for a while, before I shook off slumber, I imagined that I must have been transported to the interior halls of the opposite mountains to witness the triumph of the hunters of the night, exulting round the horrid game they had captured.

As the day broke apace, the crowds of dancers, singers, and musicians increased, and then, when the plague of sounds had reached its paroxysm, the random clouds of the late storm

discharged their lightnings, while the murmurs of the distant and dying thunders formed a continued bass to the music. The moon looked out now and then from behind her curtains in the sky—like the first dove that was commissioned to see if the waters had subsided. The sea was tranquil, and a Greek corvette of war anchored in the harbour, several fishing-boats spreading their sails, and a few caiques already showing signs of activity, reflected now the pale light of that serene orb, now the red flash from the mountains. All sounds at length declined into perfect stillness, and I awoke no more until the sun was in full career, midway up the arch of the heavens.

When breakfast made its appearance, I inquired from my *garçon* the cause of all the hubbub which I had heard at so early an hour of the morning, which he explained by saying, that a wedding had just taken place; that the parties had met in the *caffiné* below, before going to the church; and that, in conformity with the ancient custom of Greece, the ceremony had commenced with dancing and the hymeneal song; after which the bride and bridegroom, the members and friends of their families, went in procession to the sanctuary, where the pair were united. Though so rudely disturbed by their proceedings, I must say that I freely forgave the offenders, as they had thus given me a decided proof of their attachment to the venerable practices of their ancestors.

While I was sitting at my window, looking at the mountains opposite, which, after the rains and storms of the night, appeared like so many sketches in Indian ink upon a less dark ground of mist behind them, I could not help laughing at an independent sort of Italian hound, who walked about as if upon his own affairs, wrapped in a handsome cloak of goat-skin, turned inside out, with a regular cape to it. He seemed quite at home in his mantle of state, and passed by all other dogs with an air of that sort of high indifference, that would not condescend even to despise the inferior curs of the street.

Gordon's admirable history of the Greek revolution, Leake's elaborate tour through the Morea, and Pausanias, served to occupy me usefully during the four or five first days after my arrival at Patras—days of incessant rain in the mornings—then an hour or two of sunshine, and then rain again, *sans intermission*, the whole evening. When the weather permitted, I joined Mrs. Crowe's family circle, which was also the rendezvous of the Austrian and French consuls, Zuccoli and Dervoise, both agreeable intelligent men. The nights being cold, we found a Newcastle coal fire no disagreeable appendage to a cup of excellent tea.

As soon as the days again became settled, I explored the curiosities of the neighbourhood, amongst which the ancient church of St. Andrew stands most conspicuous. The floor of the celebrated temple of Ceres, near which the church was erected, still preserves its beautiful mosaique ornaments; and a little to the west of both, I descended to the well mentioned by Pausanias, to which the same number of marble steps conducted me which that excellent topographer counted when he visited the fountain. The water is most delicious. I drank a full glass of it in honour of the genius of the place.

On the 21st of November, the Austrian packet from Trieste came in, having been detained nearly a fortnight beyond its time by contrary winds. It was announced for departure again the following evening, on its way to Corfu: but as the steamer was expected every hour from Malta, I deferred engaging my passage until the last moment. I spent the whole morning in the castle of Patras, a sort of Acropolis, which commanded a very extensive view, under the hope that I might succeed in discovering the smoke of the steam-boat. From the watch-tower of the castle the prospect is remarkably fine, comprehending the well-known bicipital summits of Parnassus, which were just covered with the first snows of the year, towering in the north-east beyond its lesser ranges, the noble bay of Patras, which seemed a vast lake, almost wholly

surrounded by mountains, and in the western distance the blue heights of Cephalonia. I flattered myself once or twice that I had discerned the smoke of the steamer floating on the very verge of the horizon, but I was deceived.

I visited the ruins of an ancient aqueduct, which still remain in good preservation, at a short distance from the castle. Being well mantled in ivy and other creeping plants, they looked picturesque. From these ruins I ascended the neighbouring hills, amongst which I found the plough actively engaged. I made acquaintance also with two or three colonies of ants, who were extremely busy returning to their respective subterraneous cities, each having in his mouth a small circular leaf of some grass or weed, in the centre of which a little seed was fixed. Whole armies were following each other in single file, burthened in this manner. When the industrious insect arrived at the little aperture that led to his world below, down he ran, as fast as he could, sometimes tumbling head over heels on the way. I purposely narrowed, with the end of my cane, the gate of their citadel, and it was wonderful what a congregation of candidates for admission this interruption caused in a moment. What a noise! what fretfulness! what confusion! And yet, though the aperture for ascent was hard by, none of these experienced waggoners would attempt that route, knowing that they would thus meet the ascending armies, bent on a similar mission, and that they would thus violate one of the most sacred laws for the economy of time and labour known to their ancient nation.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Austrian Packet—Living on Board—Ionian Isles—Corfu—Situation of Corfu—A Day Late—Lord Nugent—Garrison Library—Newspapers—A Character—A Mission—Voyage—Atmospheric Delusion—Ragusa—Contrary Winds—Water-spout.

The steam-boat having failed to make her appearance, I engaged my passage to Corfu on board the Austrian packet *Vigilante* (Captain Melchiori), a very handsome frigate, pierced for ten guns, extremely well fitted out in every respect. I went on-board at night on the 22d, and the wind being right against us, we were unable to get under weigh until about three o'clock the following morning, when we began to tack out of the gulf. The operation was a very slow one, as there was then scarcely any wind around us. We lingered the whole day within sight of Patras, and approached so near to Missolonghi that we could see the people walking on its beach. The day was splendid. In the evening a veil of gossamer mist was suspended before the face of the hills on the southern shore; and the edge of the cloud being denser than the rest, had all the appearance of a ribbon to tie it round the brow for which it was destined. I was the only passenger on board. The captain had been in the naval service of the emperor for forty years; and he was assisted in his duties by a first and second lieutenant, both active and intelligent men, who relieved each other on deck every four hours throughout the whole of the voyage. The attention of these gentlemen to their duties, and the perfect order that reigned on board, might bear a comparison with any similar establishment in which even our own naval officers occasionally find employment.

Our mode of living was this,—and as it was seldom deviated from, except that the dishes were occasionally varied, the de-

scription of one day will do for all. At half-past eight o'clock in the morning, coffee was served in small cups, with a piece of biscuit, or a crust of bread. The coffee we took wherever we happened to be at that time, on deck, or in bed, or making our toilet. At nine the table was prepared for breakfast in the officer's cabin, where also our berths (very comfortable berths too) were arranged, with half-latticed doors that shut them in. Breakfast usually consisted of biscuits, fried eggs (there being plenty of poultry on board), broiled liver, slices of *uncooked* ham, cheese, walnuts, and raisins, and red Santa Maura wine. We dined at three o'clock, usually beginning with rice or maccaroni, or vermicelli soup, zested by Parmesan cheese. Then came bouilli with beet-root, roast beef, roast or stewed fowl, with celery tops or some other green vegetable by way of salad; then cheese, walnuts and raisins and apples; sometimes a glass of liqueur, and coffee. Our wine was usually that of Santa Maura, and by no means objectionable.

The biscuits were the best I ever tasted. When our stock of bread was consumed, we had recourse to them: it was only necessary to dip them for a moment in a glass of water, and they became as soft as bread. In short, the living on board the *Vigilante* was such that I should have had no difficulty in "roughing it" with such fare for a voyage of any length whatever. My bed was very good in a plain way. If I wished to be alone, I retired to it and shut my door, and read or wrote by the light of the reflector at top, or slept, just as the fancy of the hour suggested. At night, there was a warm glass of good rum punch for any body who liked it, and the pipe and cigar, being confined to the deck, I suffered no inconvenience in that respect. There was a fiddler among the sailors, and also a guitarist, who, when all was going on smooth, cheered their companions with Maltese or Illyrian airs.

On the second morning of our voyage (24th November), when I went on deck, I had the gratification to find that we

made way during the night, and were already close by the northern shore of Ithaca, which was on our left, as well as Cape Nisardo in Cephalonia, and on our right the island of Santa Maura. The morning was cloudy, with a light south wind, which yielding soon after to a strong land-breeze from the east, that bent our vessel almost on its side, we went on at the rate of nine or ten knots an hour. Soon after, we came in sight of the small islands of Paxo and Antipaxo, and passed by Parga, on the Albanian shore, which looked magnificent at a distance. The wind having again changed to the south, it was directly in our stern, and we proceeded with all our sails distended right before the breeze. Cape Bianco, off Corfu, was seen before sunset, and at half-past ten o'clock the same night we were anchored before the town, having performed, notwithstanding our delay in tacking out of the gulf, the speediest passage from Patras to Corfu which the *Vigilante* had ever known.

The next morning (25th) I went ashore, and proceeded to the Bella Venetia; but it was full of people waiting to go to Zante by the *Island* steamer. I next tried Serjeant Taylor's, as the English familiarly call a very decent private hotel, kept by a veteran of that name, who has the reputation, and I believe deservedly, of being the most civil as well as the most hospitable of innkeepers: but there too I failed to obtain admission, as the house was filled with Englishmen, three of whom were waiting for the packet to Trieste. The serjeant, however, sent out a friend to conduct me to a locanda, or lodging-house; and as I was going along the street we were met by a Greek priest, who offered to provide me with an apartment in his own house. I immediately accepted his offer, and followed him to a respectable house, where he assigned me the best room he had at his disposal. It was not particularly elegant, but I was contented with its appearance; and having arranged my *personnel*, I went forth to see the town, in which I found myself at once at home, as red coats, English artillery-

men, and the beautiful Irish brogue, told me, without much circumlocution, that I was under the protection of a powerful British garrison.

In a few years, Corfu will be a second Gibraltar. The works already completed, and those which have been commenced, will, when the whole shall be perfected, render that position impregnable, if so unmilitary a critic as myself may presume to form a judgment on the matter. The situation of Corfu is one almost of matchless beauty. To me its ample harbour, the fortified island by which it is protected on the south-east, its fine opening towards the Adriatic, its Acropolis, with a lighthouse that seems lifted to the sky, its position with relation to the ranges of Pindus, Bucintro, and Tepelene, on the Albanian shore, confer upon it a variety and grandeur of scenery, scarcely inferior to that which has gained so much admiration for the Bay of Naples.

I paid my respects to the Lord High Commissioner (Lord Nugent), whom I was glad to find in excellent health and spirits. He desired that I should join his family circle at dinner, where I found that I had just been one day too late to witness two of the most interesting spectacles that had been exhibited for many years in the Ionian islands. The previous day had been celebrated by a species of tournament peculiar to the islands, in which some of the native young noblemen, and the officers of our garrison, clothed in splendid armour, had contended for prizes, the value of which must have been not a little augmented in the estimation of the victors when presented to them by the hand of Lady Nugent, whose personal accomplishments and exquisite literary taste have been rendered familiar to us all by more than one standard production in our language. The same evening a fancy ball took place at the palace, a spacious and very handsome edifice, well calculated for the display of every kind of hospitality; and I must say that I was for once disposed to bring my stars to account for depriving me of the pleasure which I should

have felt had I been in Corfu twenty-four hours sooner, when I heard of the assemblage of beauty, and of gay and various costumes which had graced the rooms on that occasion.

There is an excellent garrison library near the palace at Corfu. I was extremely anxious to read the latest newspapers from England; but not happening to have any military acquaintance in the garrison, I presented my card at the door, and discovered very much to my satisfaction that I had already secured myself an admission to the institution by the publication of my "Visit to Spain," which the librarian was so good as to say had rendered any further introduction in my favour unnecessary. He showed me the book on the shelves. He further informed me of a circumstance of which I had been previously ignorant, that I was the relative of a nobleman whose name I bear—at least he said that when that individual was lately at Corfu, he expressed his belief that the author of the work in question was one of his kindred. It is very pleasant for a literary man to find that in places where he is personally unknown, his exertions may have rendered his name acceptable to persons of so much private worth as the nobleman to whom I allude, and with whom I have never by any chance had the slightest communication. Neither have I any sort of claim to the honour which he conferred upon me: but still it is gratifying in these degenerate days of literary influence to observe, that intellect has its claims upon rank, as well as consanguinity, and that even when those claims are not preferred, and, indeed, are not thought of, they are ready to be acknowledged.

However, I would not break through the garrison rule of an introduction, and Mr. Matthias of the Artillery, who happened to be present, undertook to be my sponsor. The papers did not come down later than the 12th of November, but they contained a great mass of intelligence with which I had been unacquainted.

I could have spent some weeks with great pleasure at Corfu,

but, the time of the Austrian packet being expired, I returned to my berth on the 26th (November). The three Englishmen, of whom I had already heard at Sergeant Taylor's, were in the cabin. We were under weigh at four o'clock A.M. the following morning, but, there being scarcely any wind, we loitered all day in the canal of Corfu.

We all soon discovered that we had a *character* on board, who was likely to afford us some amusement during our voyage. He was dressed in blue fustian trowsers, a shirt, a black serge cassock, a shovel hat, and a very scanty mantle of the same material as his cassock, scarcely reaching below his shoulders. He said he was a Frenchman; that he had been educated for the church at the college of Limoges; that he had received deacon's orders. He had had an inspiration, he assured us, which bade him perform a pilgrimage to the holy sepulchre at Jerusalem, and he had gone as far as Alexandria for that purpose; but having been informed at that place by his consul, that the plague would be very likely to dispose of him if he went much farther, he prudently postponed his pilgrimage, and was now on his return to France. His great hat, which had evidently seen much service, he wore only on occasions of state; his ordinary head-dress was a silk handkerchief tied tightly round his forehead, which rather augmented the caricature expression of his round jolly-looking face. He had his berth forward; but as he really was a well-educated man, and a most eccentric fellow in every way, we frequently drew him out, whenever he was not inclined, though that happened very rarely—to exhibit himself for our entertainment.

We sent for the deacon in the evening, and offered him some punch; but he preferred the unadulterated liquor, which soon opened all the sources of his eloquence. He informed us that he had a mission to preach to the heathens, and favoured us with some of the harangues by which he had meditated to convert them. They were very droll; but he argued that

drollery was often more convincing than a homily, and it was his peculiar mission to laugh the Arabs out of their errors. We asked him in what language he meant to address them, as it was possible they might not understand French. To which he replied, with a mystic shrug of the shoulders, that wherever he went the French language would be instantly known to every body by *inspiration;* indeed, it was the only language now spoken in Paradise, and would soon become universal upon earth!

On the 28th we were still stationary—not a breath of wind in any part of the heavens—the day dark, rainy, and miserable. Better hopes came with the ensuing morning, when the sun shone warmly through a perfectly cloudless sky. Light winds sprung up, and wafted us at length quietly beyond the canal of Corfu. We fired in vain at two cormorants who were perched at some distance on a rock, engaged in fishing, while as usual a gull acted as their sentinel, doubtless expecting to be well paid for his trouble. During the night we made about seventy miles, and proceeded on the 30th at a fair rate until about noon, when the wind changed from the south to the north-west—that is to say, right against us. The vessel rolled a good deal, and though at three o'clock we all sat down to dinner as usual, the table was soon thinned of its guests. Strange to say, the doctor attached to the packet was the first to surrender—he was followed by my three English fellow passengers—and the captain, the two lieutenants, and I, had the dessert to ourselves.

December came as it ought to do, with a "fine frosty morning," as the extinct watchmen used to say; the wind still either north-west or north-east; in either way almost equally hostile to our right course. We were steering for Ragusa, but we had no chance of "progressing;" and so we beat about the whole day and the whole of the ensuing night: in the morning we had the felicity to observe that we had "advanced backwards;" we were perfectly becalmed the whole day.

A magnificent atmospheric delusion appeared in the western sky the whole evening. The sun set behind a field of broken clouds, which seemed to extend along the whole of the Italian side of the Adriatic. The fragments of vapour were fixed, and precisely resembled a dense and boundless forest of pines. The trunks, some biforked, the branches, the rounded tops, here thickly clustering behind one another, there opening vistas through the depths of the shade behind, looked as if nature were engaged in one of her sublimest moods of study for some exhibition worthy of another sphere.

While we were gazing with silent admiration at this wondrous scene, the sun shot his parting rays upward from below the horizon, and pointed to the new moon, which, with the evening star just above it, reminded me of the skies of Turkey and the Ægean.

On the evening of the 3d we entered the small, but secure, interesting harbour of Gravosa, near Ragusa, but were not allowed to land, on account of quarantine. Luckily the packet had the privilege of taking a "health officer" on-board at this place; and from the day of his coming on-board we were entitled to begin our period of quarantine, fourteen days, which, had we already arrived at Trieste, we should have had to spend in the lazaretto. The officer came on board the same evening. We were fortunate in finding shelter at Gravosa, as, during the whole night, the wind blew fiercely from the north; so much so, that, even sheltered as we were by lofty hills on all sides, so agitated was the sea in the harbour, that we were obliged to throw out a second anchor to keep the vessel in her station. The day was spent in laying in a fresh stock of provisions of all sorts, as the captain now clearly foresaw that our voyage was likely to be prolonged beyond the ordinary period.

We had each a store of books, which we exchanged with each other; and these, with walks on the deck, the time spent at meals, and by my friends at their pipes and cigars, our even-

ing whist-parties, and the closing glass of punch, enabled us to wear through these delays better than we could have expected. The still remaining additional consolation was also at hand, that our quarantine was every hour diminishing, and that it was much more agreeable even to count it on board the packet at Gravosa, that in the lazaretto at Trieste.

The neighbourhood of the Dalmatian shore also enabled us to vary our mode of living a little; fresh grapes and apples, and even tripe soup, and beef steaks, appended or prefixed to a bottle of sherry or champagne, were not unwelcome to such a party as we happened to be—an extremely pleasant party too, I must add, to the pleasures of which the officers of the vessel added very considerably by their uniform civility, and their disposition to share in all our amusements.

We weighed anchor once more on the morning of the 6th of December; but though we advanced a little way with a slight south wind, were we not fifty miles from Ragusa at noon on the 7th, when the wind became due west. We tacked about the whole day, which was as warm and as brilliant as an English day in spring.

8th. Wind north-west. We were opposite the island of Cazza, about 120 miles from Ragusa; the day so warm that when we sat in the cabin, were we obliged to have the top-lights open. The heat became so oppressive at night that we remained to a late hour on deck looking at the effect of the moon, in her first quarter, shining on the waves. Those that came sparkling near us soon lost their light: but the more distant undulations seemed an unchanging path of chased and solid silver.

9th. Made only twenty miles during the night, having passed the large island of Lissa. About eight o'clock A.M. a breeze came to our assistance from the south-east, and enabled us to move on at the rate of six knots an hour. Dense clouds hung over the isle of Lesina behind us; and while we were examining them, with a view to conjecture how they might

affect the weather, they discharged themselves of an enormous volume of water, by means of two successive water-spouts, each of which looked to us, who happily were at a distance, like a cable suspended from the sky, and waving in the wind. We distinctly saw the sea rise to meet the descending torrent, which came down from the clouds as if poured through a tunnel.

The Doctor turned pale when he witnessed this splendid phenomenon, remarking, that if it had overtaken the *Vigilante*, we should have been speedily overwhelmed by the sea. His remark would have been just if the crew were devoid of the energy necessary to urge the vessel beyond the reach of the deluge; or if science and experience had not taught our officers that we might easily dissipate its force by a few discharges of cannon. We had eight large brass guns on-board, which might in a moment cause such a concussion in the atmosphere as to render the water-spout perfectly harmless. As it happened, however, we were rather more pleased to have had the opportunity of witnessing that rare and very striking operation from a more advantageous point of observation, if it were only for that effect which Campbell spoke of when he said, that

"Distance lends enchantment to the view."

CHAPTER XXXII.

The Deacon—A lost Shirt—Grossa Island—The Quarnero—Pola—Istrian Coast—Trieste—Venetian Steamer—Venice—Russian Artist—Il Fanatico—Rome—St. Peter's—High Mass—Don Miguel—Congregation—Roman Monarchy—Gregory XVI.—The Vatican Hill—Gardens of Nero—The Elevation—Christian Triumph.

In one respect the Doctor was right. He assured us that the water-spout predicted stormy weather; for in a few hours

after, the gale did come on, sure enough, and continued to blow the whole evening from the south-east. We had only a single sail out—the parroquete, as the Austrian seamen called it—the second largest sail of the vessel, which about six o'clock was shivered into mere shreds. At the moment it was thus shattered, the *Vigilante* was almost on her side; and, to my inexperience, it seemed that if the sail had not thus yielded to the sudden burst of the tempest, she would have been blown over. The damage was speedily repaired, as all hands were on board, and at ten o'clock the storm was suddenly hushed, like a passionate child that has cried itself to sleep. The night was clear and tranquil.

It was agreed amongst the sailors that they had never made so long and so disagreeable a passage before from Corfu to Trieste, though they had been for some two or theee years on that station. They, one and all, imputed this misfortune to the presence of the deacon, whom they looked upon as a harbinger of evil, and, as such, treated him with very little ceremony on all occasions. Numberless were the quarrels which the captain had to compose between this man and the sailors; he talked to them in his voluble French, which they did not understand, and which for that reason the more provoked them. He allowed no rudeness to go unrepelled, and even became engaged more than once in regular combat for his bed, or his pillow, or his mug, or his shoes, or something or another of which they attempted to deprive him, in order to pick a quarrel with his reverence. The slightest encouragement on our part would have been accepted by them as a sufficient warrant on theirs to throw him into the sea!

Whatever was the state of the weather, the deacon was sure to be employed, when not eating or sleeping, in one of two ways; either he was writing his journal, which I observed he persevered in with great industry, or he was washing his only shirt in sea-water, which he then hung on the cordage of the sails to dry. It so happened that the said shirt was blanching

in the wind during the late gale; and that just at the moment the parroquete was torn into tatters, the shirt was seen like a witch riding on the element, filled in a balloon shape, and borne off to a watery grave. The sailors absolutely cheered it on its departure, and exclaimed, that as the deacon was thus blown overboard in effigy, we should have no more bad weather! The sudden lulling of the tempest satisfied them soon after that their prediction was verified, and they became more complaisant towards the original, who was, however, by no means reconciled to the loss he had sustained, and imputed it to their knavery.

December 10.—In the morning we found ourselves opposite the long and lofty island of Grossa, whose high cliffs sheltered us in a great measure from a stiff breeze which blew from the north-east. The immediate neighbourhood of this island affords what the sailors call a port with the sail up: that is to say, the waters are too deep for anchorage, but a vessel may ride up and down, under the protection of its mountains, when the north and east winds blow too strongly. We had good reason to deem ourselves fortunate in having arrived within its protecting influence, as our mainsail was also opening in some of its seams; and the sea in the distance, towards the Italian coast, was one vast sheet of foam. We accordingly tacked up and down before the island the whole day.

December 11.—Still before Grossa; the wind blowing violently from the north; the air excessively cold; the mountains of our friendly island mantled in snow. We replaced our mainsail and parroquete.

December 12.—We attempted last night and this morning to venture out to sea, but found the experiment too dangerous to persevere in it. Accordingly we continued riding up and down as before in our island-harbour. A merchant brig joined us, which had been thirty-six days on her voyage from Alexandria, bound for Trieste.

December 13.—It was of the more importance that we should remain before Grossa while the wind was in the north-east, and blowing so violently, as we were then near the little Quarnero, as it is called—that is to say, the "devourer of men" on a small scale; the larger Quarnero being somewhat higher up the Adriatic. These are by no means agreeable sounds to a voyager. The *Adriatic* mariners have, however, not at all exaggerated the dangers of the two gulfs in bestowing upon them these appellations, as a year seldom passes without witnessing eight or ten wrecks of their ill-managed country boats in the larger Quarnero, and perhaps half the number in the smaller one.

Both these perilous parts of the Adriatic are gulfs, the first of which extends from the sea towards the Dalmatian coast, formed by a number of small islands, from around which a very heavy sea is accumulated in one body, and rolled with tremendous force by a north-eastern wind. We ventured from our island about ten o'clock last night, and though the ship rolled a good deal, we passed the mouth of this gulf in two hours after, and then proceeded quietly under the protection of the islands, which are thickly strewed along the Croatian coast, until ten o'clock this morning, when we entered the mouth of the larger Quarnero, an extensive gulf formed by the north-western coast of Croatia, and the eastern coast of Istria.

The wind was blowing due north, almost a gale, so that we must have encountered the dangers of the scene in their worst form. The waves that rolled from the interior of the gulf were large, but regular, and much rounded, and the most picturesque undulations I ever saw. Our vessel, steering direct for the promontory of Istria, in order to turn the Cape, leaned of course with a north wind on her side, her edge and part of her bulwarks being under water, and the parroquete itself occasionally kissing the waves. Two or three angry

billows splashed the deck, but by noon we were round the point without any kind of difficulty. We then made our way rapidly along the Istrian coast, towards the Gulf of Trieste.

As we passed near Pola, we had a good opportunity of exploring with our glasses the remains—indeed I should have said the complete shell—of the ancient amphitheatre, which still records the extension of Roman luxury and taste to that region. It seemed to be in excellent preservation. The towns and villages spread along the coast are prettily situated. The wind being still in the north when we approached towards Rovigno, we were obliged to anchor in that harbour at four in the afternoon. The town is of considerable extent; its magnificent church forms a striking object from the sea, and it possesses also a monastery, apparently capable of containing three or four hundred monks. Behind the town the country rises gradually in green and well-cultivated hills, and then farther away into lofty mountains, whose ridges were covered with snow. Just as we let go the anchor, the wind, which had blown so violently during four days, almost without intermission, was succeeded by a dead calm. The evening was beautiful, but cold —the moon nearly full.

December 14.—Proceeded at seven o'clock in the morning with a light wind along the coast of Istria, the scenery of which strongly resembles that of the Campagna of Rome—mountains still in the distance crowned with snow, and declining gradually in undulations towards the sea. The green declivities were here and there occupied by villages and hamlets, and dotted by separate cottages and villas. The picturesque effect of the scenery received not a little improvement from the circumstance of the snow on the mountain-tops being occasionally streaked by sandy ridges which had already absorbed it. The sun shone the whole day in an unclouded sky. At noon we beheld the Alps of Friuli, and the Italian coast round the head of the gulf as far as Venice. We made way,

however, very slowly, by tacking, and anchored for the night at Omago.

December 15.—Passed the point of Salvori—the morning splendid—vessels tacking about in the gulf of Trieste in all directions, of all qualities and sizes—the Alps topped with snow—the waves just agitated enough for a sea picture—Trieste distant about fifteen miles—the wind still northerly, and scarcely allowing us to make any advance towards our destination. At noon, finding it impossible to combat with our enemy, and the evil stars of the deacon, we anchored at Pirano.

December 16.—We were engaged nearly seven hours in tacking from Pirano to Trieste, a distance of twelve miles. At length, however, we reached the harbour at two o'clock in the afternoon; but although we were entitled to pratique at once, having exhausted the whole of our quarantine at sea, the officers, it seems, had gone to dinner, and were not expected to return to business till to-morrow! So we were obliged to remain on board. The port was crowded with shipping. An Austrian brig of war was preparing to sail for America, having on board a number of *Polish exiles*. A steam-boat was also in the harbour, named the *Sophia*, one of those which ply between Trieste and Venice.

December 17.—We obtained pratique at eight o'clock in the morning, having been thus detained nearly three weeks on the voyage from Corfu to Trieste. Before we quitted the *Vigilante*, we had the mortification to see another of the Austrian packets come in from Corfu in three days, having had a south wind the whole way. But, on the other hand, the passengers by the latter vessel had still the whole of their quarantine to perform, and we did not at all envy them their station in the lazaretto.

Trieste exhibited every appearance of being a highly prosperous port. Signs of active and increasing commerce were

visible in every part of the town. Many capital houses and extensive magazines have been recently erected there, and no doubt can be entertained that when steam navigation shall become more familiar to the shores of the Mediterranean, Trieste will rise to a rank equal to that which once belonged to Genoa. The Hotel Grande, at which we stopped, is as good as any thing of the kind to be met with in England. The shops and the markets were abundantly filled with every description of goods and fruits and vegetables, and thronged with customers. The sale of bread seemed principally confined to one street, where country-women were sitting down by their baskets on each side; the said baskets, and the pavement all around them, being occupied by cakes and loaves of remarkably fine bread of their own baking. We gave the officers of the *Vigilante* as good a dinner as the Hotel Grande could furnish, in return for the uniform attentions which they showed us during our protracted voyage, and the same evening I proceeded on board the *Archduke Charles* steamer bound for Venice.

This vessel is very handsomely fitted up—indeed, much more tastefully than any I had ever seen at home. The principal cabin is splendid, and the berths all round remarkably convenient. We had nearly fifty passengers on board. We did not quit our moorings until near one o'clock. As soon as the first light of the morning came, I was on deck, and found that the wind, having been right in our stern, a sail had been hoisted, and the spires and towers of Venice were already visible above the sea. As we advanced towards it rapidly, it would have been no poetical phraseology to describe Venice as a city rising from the waters, for that was literally the appearance which it presented. We entered the harbour at eight o'clock, having performed the voyage of seventy-two miles in seven hours.

The first views of Venice, however, from the sea, were not so imposing as I had expected; although I beheld it

under the gradually increasing lights of the rising sun, yet as those lights were coming from behind me, and revealed only the more prominent edifices in front, leaving the more distant spires and buildings still hidden in the vapours of the night, the prospect wanted those characters of perspective and magnitude which had exhibited Constantinople to so much greater advantage. But when I entered the grand canal, and the sun disclosed the long lines of palaces and churches to view—above all, when we approached St. Mark's, and began to mingle with the gondolas, and to feel the singular effect which these gloomy-looking caiques and numerous other boats produced, moving about in all directions through numberless canals, where they were soon lost to the eye, and never present to the ear, all the associations of past renown, of chivalry, power, crime, and the contrasts of visible bankruptcy and meanness with the gorgeous opulence and pride by which this queen of the seas, at no very remote period, was raised to preeminence, swept through the mind in rapid succession, soliciting for Venice those heartfelt impulses of indulgence and compassion, which render it almost impossible ever after to remember her desolate appearance without the deepest emotion.

I had had no sleep during the night, as our steamer, however beautiful in its decorations, was very creaky, and the paddles very noisy. But I forgot all these things, when, after breakfasting at Daniel's Hotel Royal, I posted off towards the Place of St. Mark, passed between the pillars of granite brought from Greece, beheld the Campanile, the Corinthian horses!—explored St. Mark's well-known church, and the ducal palace, its splendid libraries and picture-galleries; its chambers, once the scenes of the most despotic oligarchical power ever known to mankind; its prisons and dungeons—its "Bridge of Sighs!"—traversed the porticos of the great square, and stood on the Rialto.

The next day was devoted to the principal churches, where preparations were already going on for the celebration of the

great festival of the Nativity. Every thing has gone to decay at Venice except its churches, and these are unquestionably without rivals, even at Rome, St. Peter's and St. John Lateran only excepted, and perhaps one or two others. The paintings, the frescos, the marble altars, and columns and pilasters, the mosaiqued floors, the statues and monuments, by which the numerous sacred edifices are distinguished at Venice, can only be sufficiently appreciated by the visitor who has ample time to meditate on all their excellence. To me, before whom they passed as in a panorama, they are but a dream—a dream indeed full of luminous recollections, to which I never look back for a moment without wishing myself at Venice again.

The weather was extremely cold; but as the moon was at its maturity, I nevertheless felt a singular gratificatiou in rambling through the streets at night, observing the picturesque effects of the lights and shadows in which the canals, and gondolas moving on them in silence, the towers of the churches, the palaces and squares, were exhibited. The finest shadow, I presume, to be seen in the world, is that of the Campanile, when thrown by the position of the moon quite to the extremity of the Place of St. Mark.

The Academy of Painting necessarily occupied the greater part of a day. I need hardly have noted my ascent of the Campanile, as the summit of the tower affords one of the finest prospects in existence, including the lagoons, the islands and seas round Venice, and the Tyrolese Alps. My three Venetian suns and moons vanished like a moment, and at midnight on the 20th (December) I found myself in Mestre, on my way to Rome, where I hoped to arrive in time for the Christmas high mass at St. Peter's.

Padua, the Euganean hills, Albano, celebrated for its hot baths, the Adige, and the Po, Ferrara, and Bologna, successively led me on to the Apennines. At Bologna, I fortunately procured a seat in the courier's carriage, for the "eternal city." I met with a most interesting companion in a Russian

by birth, who seemed altogether devoted to the art of painting, n which he had already acquired some celebrity. He had a ouch of "Il Fanatico" about him upon every subject connected with his profession, which was to me excessively amusing. He talked of the people of Italy with rapture. The act was, he had been recently exhibiting at Bologna a picture of Herculaneum, which had procured for him the highest eulogies from all quarters, the Italians knowing scarcely any limits to praise when once they commence the offers of their incense. He was overflowing with delight, as it was his first grand work; he had, as he said to me, with much *naïveté*, made a name; his was one of the great names of the day, that would soon be on every tongue!

His usual residence was at Rome, the only part of the world, he thought, in which a man of taste could live. The climate was to him inspiration, a sort of Paradise, in which his genius revelled incessantly. That of Naples was still more exciting—"Indeed, whenever I visit Naples," said he, "I become a fool, so ungovernable is the sense of happiness, the wild joy, the rush of noble thoughts that fill my soul!"

I could not keep up at all with this man's torrent of ideas; and then turning plaintively upon me, he would lament the uninflammable materials of which all Englishmen, indeed all northerns, were composed! They knew not what genius was; they were a very good sort of people, very rich and well-informed, and all that; but they were too *civilized*, too frigid; they were so many marble statues in a shop, compared with the artist who idolized his profession, and followed it under the skies and amidst the inexhaustible models of the Vatican, and the teeming associations with which the "genius of the place" was pregnant.

We travelled rapidly by the Pesaro road, and as there was as yet scarcely any snow or ice on the Apennines, they offered no obstruction to our speed. Early on the morning of the 25th, we arrived within view of the Sabine hills. St. Peter's

soon after was within our horizon; and at half-past seven A.M. our horses galloped through the Porto del Popolo. I was put down at the Hotel d'Allemagne, under the recommendation of my Russian friend, and at ten o'clock I was among the crowds of all tongues and nations, ascending the portico of the noblest temple ever dedicated to the worship of the true God.

I had never experienced in England any thing like the rigours of cold which I had felt hitherto in Italy. At Rome they were intense. Nevertheless, when I entered St. Peter's, I felt as if I had been suddenly transferred to a genial climate, from which the surrounding atmosphere had been altogether excluded. I, of course, imputed this sudden change to the use of artificial means for heating that immense edifice, as the number of persons already assembled within its precincts, though really very considerable, seemed so diminutive as to be altogether incapable of producing by their presence any effect upon its temperature. But, to my surprise, I afterwards learned that there was no such thing as a flue or pipe of any sort used for the production of artificial warmth in St Peter's. The temperature of its interior, owing to the vastness of the space comprehended beneath its matchless dome and roof, never varies at any season of the year. Like the ocean, it is warm in winter, cold in summer, cool in the spring and the autumn; but these changes are felt only in relation to the external atmosphere; the atmosphere of the world within, itself partaking of the attributes of an element in nature, never knows any alteration. The first thing that struck my eye with singular surprise when I found myself under the dome of this great temple, was the apparent insignificance of the human figures congregating towards the high altar from all the entrances. We seemed a race of pigmies, of children, of insects blackening the marbled floor, but scarcely rising in relief above it. This feeling was humiliating, but it gradually wore off as the ceremonies of the day commenced, and

the occasion on which we were assembled raised the mind to other objects than those of personal interest.

The Pope was borne to the great altar in his chair of state, attended by a host of cardinals and bishops, and the representatives and many members of all the regular orders of the church. The variety and elegance and splendour of ecclesiastical costumes thus brought together produced a most imposing effect. The gorgeous vestments of his Holiness in his jewelled tiara—the mitres and mantles of the bishops, the red robes of the cardinals, formed a remarkable contrast with the poor Carmelite's white garb of flannel and his ruder sandal. The Swiss papal guards, in their antique dress, covered over on the breast and back by the steel cuirass, with a hat turned up on one side, and decorated by a ruby drooping plume on the other, reminded one of the days of the crusades; while the newest fashions of Paris and London, crowding the tribunes in another quarter, gave a different charm to the scene, substituting (when the eye turned downward from that airy dome) real beauty for the visions of tradition.

Amongst the remarkable personages who were present at this great festival, I observed Don Miguel, the ex-usurper of the throne of Portugal. He was in a tribune on the left hand of the Papal throne, and appeared to attract very general attention. He was dressed in blue uniform, decorated with some orders, obtained I know not how, or where, or when, as there has been scarcely any period in that prince's life when he merited, in my judgment, any such distinctions. He looked, however, extremely well—indeed, I should have added, even a remarkably handsome man, had his character not been tainted by his proceedings in the Peninsula. His *moral* physiognomy detracted not a little from his external appearance, and his devotion was too sanctified to be sincere.

The great aisle of the church was lined by soldiers on each side, who kept a space open in the middle: behind them the

sacred edifice was densely filled by the lower orders of the people of Rome, and I must say that I never beheld so large a concourse of people conduct themselves with such perfect propriety. I wish I could bear a similar testimony to the demeanour of the better-dressed groups, who had the privilege of the tribunes which were arranged at each side of the high altar as well as of the intervening spaces. The greater number of these groups consisted, I regret to say, of English families, who seemed to think that they came to "be seen," and to attract notice to themselves by their loud remarks and their intrusive manners, appearing to think that St. Peter's was a theatre, and the sacred solemnity an opera, at which they were to display their superior taste in music, and their progress in the French or Italian language. The thought that they were attending divine service seemed never to occupy them for an instant. I must add, at the same time, that other foreigners, and especially the French, rivalled the English in this most improper conduct.

The high altar, as every body knows, is immediately under the great dome. The Pope's throne was erected at the western extremity of the temple, and thence to the altar the distance was considerable; but it scarcely appeared so, as benches extended on each side were occupied by the cardinals and bishops, and other ecclesiastics who usually attend on such occasions. His Holiness commenced the mass at the steps of the altar, after which he returned to his throne and proceeded with the Introit, the Kyrie Eleison, and that beautiful expression of human joy and benevolence, "Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis!" "Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace to men of good will!"

Never did the concluding words of that angelic address to the Deity seem to me to come more meetly from the lips of man, than they did at that moment from the successor of St. Peter.—"Quoniam tu solus sanctus—Tu solus Dominus—Tu

solus altissimus!" "For Thou only art holy—Thou only art the Lord—Thou only art most high."

Here was a sovereign of a monarchy the most ancient now flourishing in Europe,—a monarchy seated at Rome—the mistress of the world in all that relates to intellectual pre-eminence—a kingdom which has already existed longer than the Roman empire—appealing for mercy to the Redeemer;—surrounded by many men of the greatest acquirements, by the highest dignitaries of the church, whose unaffected humility and devotion outshone their gorgeous vestments—by large masses of the undoubted descendants of the ancient Roman people—by individuals from almost every nation under the sun—appealing to "the only Lord," the "Most High God," in his own name and in that of the great assemblage thus gathered together beneath a dome worthy of the Majesty of Heaven! It was, indeed, a spectacle which he who once has seen it never can think of without exulting that the Meek One who, when born, was received in a manger—whose very name was spitten upon where that unearthly pile is raised, was the God now hailed by the representatives of all nations, as the "Solus sanctus Dominus, altissimus Jesus Christus!" Glory indeed be to that God on high!

In tones that touched the heart, Gregory—the sixteenth high pontiff of his name—forgetting the external splendours by which he was encompassed—poured forth these acknowledgments, these supplications—"Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram—Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis!"—"Thou who takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer—Thou who sittest on the right hand of the Father, *have mercy upon us!*"

Let it never be forgotten, that the Vatican hill was once the site of the gardens and circus of Nero—the spot on which that emperor, to borrow the remarkable words of Tacitus, "inflicted the most exquisite tortures on those men who, under

the *vulgar* appellation of christians, were already branded with infamy." "They derived," adds the *philosophic* historian, "their name and origin from Christ, who, in the reign of Tiberius, had suffered death, by the sentence of the procurator, Pontius Pilate. For awhile this dire superstition was checked; but it again burst forth, and not only spread itself over Judæa, the first seat of this mischievous sect, but was even introduced into Rome, the common asylum, which receives and protects whatever is *impure*, whatever is *atrocious*. The confessions of those who were seized discovered a great multitude of their accomplices, and they were all *convicted* for their *hatred of human kind*. They died in torments, and their torments were embittered by insult and derision. Some were nailed on crosses; others sewn up in the skins of wild beasts, and exposed to the fury of dogs; others again, smeared over with combustible materials, were used as *torches* to illuminate the darkness of the night. The *gardens of Nero* were the scene of this spectacle, which was accompanied with a horse-race, and honoured with the presence of the emperor, who mingled with the populace in the dress and attitude of a charioteer!"

What were satin, brocade, cloth of gold, the splendid array of massive salvers and chalices, the jewelled mitre, and ducal hat, and triple crown in such a scene, and amidst such associations as these? No; I envied the supreme pontiff nothing, save the tear that glistened in his fine intelligent eye, when, remembering where he stood, he poured forth his gratitude—"Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam."—"We give thee thanks for thy great glory!" The choir took up the anthem unaided by the organ—"Laudamus te—benedicimus te—adoramus te"—the hallelujahs that resound for ever through the abodes of the Divinity! It was a shout of triumph, filling even that vast concave with its reverberations.

These passages of the service were followed by the epistle and the gospel, the credo, and the solemn preparations for the

sacrifice. The host that was offered up was "unspotted;" it was offered to the "living and true God," for the transgressions of all who were "present;" for "all christians of all generations;" "as a most sweet odour for the salvation of the whole world." The "sanctifier" was entreated to bless the "sacrifice" thus "provided for the glory of his name," and the angels and archangels, and all the elect were summoned round the altar, that by their presence and mediation the very atmosphere should be rendered holy, and the incense sacred, with which the shrine was perfumed. The pontiff washed his hands "among the innocent," bowed down his uncovered head, turned to the immense multitude, called upon them to pray that the sacrifice might be "acceptable" to the "Father Almighty," to "lift up their hearts," and give thanks to the Lord God—the God of "Sabbaoth, of whose glory the heavens and the earth were full." These appeals were answered by another burst of triumph from the choir—"Hosanna in excelsis!"

The stillness that followed during the moments while the high priest consecrated and raised the host for adoration, was awful. The choir was hushed—no sound throughout that vast prostrate multitude met the ear save the notes of the higher reeds of the organ, which, floating along the fretted roof towards the dome above, tended only to unite in one cherub voice the secret orisons of the whole assembly.

When the high mass terminated, his holiness was borne in procession down the great aisle, preceded as before by the clergy, bishops, cardinals, and the officers of his household. He was crowned in the tiara. At each side of his elevated chair of state was raised a banner of snow-white plumes, which are said to be among the most ancient memorials of the sacred sovereignty. It was fitting that upon the spot where the blood of christians had flowed, the banners of their victory should be unfurled on such a day as this; but it was still more beautiful to observe that he who was thus exalted above the heads of

the people, had no need of a slave to warn him that he was himself no more than mortal; he dispensed no blessings without striking his breast silently, preferring, to all these outward circumstances of human pageantry, the self-denial and humility that should ever characterize the minister of the gospel.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Papal Revenues—Public Opinion—Discontents—Cold of Rome—St. John Lateran—St. Peter's—St. Peter's Chair—Windows—Cardinal Weld—English Diplomacy—Neapolitan Constitution—Austrian Ascendency—British Minister at Rome—The Sistine Chapel—Spanish Monk—Vespers—The Roman Hills.

It is agreed, I believe, on all hands, that Gregory XVI. is as much distinguished for his cheerful temper, his amiable disposition, simplicity in his mode of living, as for his great learning and unaffected piety. He is, moreover, a munificent patron of the arts, as far as the limited means at his command enable him to be; anxiously attentive to the interests of his subjects; alive to every practicable enterprize that can be rendered conducive to their prosperity, and merciful, perhaps to an extreme, as a Christian prelate ought to be, in the administration of justice. Indeed, when I considered the very scanty revenues of the Roman sovereignty, and looked around at the magnificent churches, the unrivalled collections of works of art, the edifices in which these are preserved, and the noble institutions with which modern Rome abounds in all quarters, I felt bound to admit, that throughout my journey I had observed no other country in which the public money had been laid out so much to the public advantage.

No tax has been levied on the community that is not still

represented by some memorial of the uses to which it has been applied—a temple—a new gallery in the Vatican—an ancient arch saved from destruction—statues of the most perfect workmanship disinterred from oblivion—an aqueduct repaired—a Colosseum almost restored—marshes drained and cultivated—roads infinitely superior to the Flavian or Appian Ways constructed or renewed. So carefully have the remains of Imperial Rome been guarded by the same hands which have raised the finest Christian edifices in the world, that the stranger who goes to Rome for the first time is doubtful which he must the more admire—the Rome of the Cæsars, or the Rome of the Pontiffs. Of this I am perfectly convinced, that if the mistress of the ancient world had fallen into the hands of the common order of sovereigns, who had luxurious courts to pamper, and costly wars to sustain, and large families to establish, neither the Vatican, nor St. Peter's, would have ever existed, Michael Angelo would have lived in vain, and the Raphaels and the Titians would have died like those "mute inglorious Miltons," upon whose names the lights of immortality had never shone. Rome would have been at this day as fatal to health, as unsightly in its ruinous streets, as Stamboul—probably as desolate as Palmyra. The Popes can give a good account, both individually and collectively, of their stewardship—"*Si monumenta quæris, circumspice.*"

Sooner or later, however, difficulties will arise with respect to the civil administration of the Roman states, of which I am not at all insensible. A tide of enlightened, steady, public opinion is undoubtedly arising throughout the whole of Italy, which is unfriendly—and, I must add, justly so—to a system of government, which is carried on chiefly through the agency of ecclesiastical persons. The substitution of spiritual legations for temporal delegations of authority, of a theocracy for that which ought to be a purely secular combination of functions, cannot long survive the day at which we are now arrived. The papal power is not, and ought not to be, strong

enough to contend against the revolution which is approaching in this respect. Even as matters now stand, the Holy Father requires the constant assistance of Austria in order to maintain his ascendancy. And as France will not permit Austrian interference alone, the former seems resolved to garrison Ancona as long as the latter chooses to retain possession of Bologna. This state of things cannot be permanent.

It is very well understood, that the discontented of the Roman states do not desire to withdraw themselves from the temporal dominion of the Pope. If they did, they well know that they must immediatly fall under the yoke either of France or Austria, for the idea of an Italian republic in the present state of Europe is the vision of a school-boy. What they really seek for, what it is most their interest to solicit in a peaceable manner, and to secure in a lasting form, is a constitutional system of government, carried on by lay functionaries, and presided over by the Pope, as prince of the Roman states, and not as bishop of the see of Rome. It is necessary for all parties that this question should be speedily settled, the more especially as the apparent tranquillity of Lombardy is but the repose of the volcano. The ingredients are gathering within the womb of time which must soon be ignited, and find relief in explosion, at a moment, perhaps, when such an event may be the least expected. Prince Metternich must be conscious that his imperial master holds northern Italy by a species of tenure which a war in any part of Europe might efface in a moment. History exhibits few instances of domination more unnatural than that of the Austrians in Italy; they hold it by no moral tie whatever; they retain it simply by the pressure of physical force, which must at no distant hour give way before the greater force of mind, already rendering itself manifest in that quarter.

The cold of Rome during the fortnight I spent there was remarkably severe. During two or three of the hours after mid-day, wherever the influence of the sun was felt, it was

as warm as our spring; but the rest of the day and night was a Siberian winter, rendered the less tolerable, inasmuch as the good folks who built most of the houses of the capital seem to have formed their plans universally in the summer, and to have totally forgotten that such a season as winter ever entered into the composition of a Roman year. In very few chambers is a fire-place to be met with; and where there is one, it happens to be so large that it admits currents of air sufficient to freeze the very soul.

Nevertheless, my time passed away with amazing rapidity. After spending a day or two in roving over the Pincian and Quirinal hills, along the banks of the still "yellow" Tiber, and in the haunts of the great men of other days, I made the round of the churches, of which St. John Lateran and Santa Maria Maggiore are, I believe, after St. Peter's, the most splendid. The embellishments of the former are indeed upon a most magnificent scale: its ancient ecclesiastical curiosities are preserved with great care, especially the table on which the "last supper" is said to have been celebrated. In the Corsini chapel, which is a very elegant structure, besides the monuments of the family, there is a most superb sarcophagus of porphyry, supposed to have been that of Agrippa, which was found in the Pantheon. Near St. John Lateran there are several objects well worth examination. Returning from that quarter, I visited the triumphal arch of Constantine, and the Colosseum, and the Forum of Trajan—and thus exhausted a day noted in my calendar as one of the most delightful I have ever known.

I usually devoted my mornings either to the Colosseum or St. Peter's, and remarked that I was enabled to appreciate the former the first moment I entered it; but that every time I passed the porch of the latter, it seemed to disclose new features of grandeur which I had not observed before. When I first entered that spacious area I was much dissatisfied, not with the edifice, but with myself. I saw plainly be-

fore me all the combinations of transcendant genius and skill and taste, which could possibly be brought together for the execution of the most perfect monument of art ever exhibited to human contemplation. But I had come almost fresh from the Parthenon, the beauty of which, like that of an antique medal, or of a sun-bright female countenance, I comprehended the instant I beheld it; whereas, when I found myself within St. Peter's, all was so vast, and yet so harmonious, that my mind could fix no focus for itself within which the flood of light around me could be concentrated for the formation of a picture.

But I discovered that this defect became less sensible, when by frequent observation I made myself more conversant with the details of this majestic structure; that I attained in particular positions points of sight at which the individual features came out in all their designed effect, and that thus, step by step, I mounted the airy scale leading to the dome, upon which, like that of the traveller from Beersheba, the wrapt imagination might behold "the angels of God ascending and descending." The perfect order in which every thing is kept throughout the temple, the delicate cleanliness of the altars and their ornaments, the beauty of the paintings, the colossal grandeur of the statues, the silence and decorum observed by those who attend the everyday services, are all parts of one great whole. All thoughts are hushed within that heavenly sanctuary, save those which belong to religion—to eternity!

The monument of Paul III. is perhaps the only object which a severe taste would wish to see removed from St. Peter's. In any secular edifice it would be less liable to criticism. It is distinguished by those two celebrated statues to which I have already alluded, of Justice, represented as a girl of enchanting beauty, and of Prudence, personated by an old woman of the most repulsive ugliness. Such was the fascination excited in minds not accustomed to the contemplation of beauty as the

perfection of ideal models, by the marvellous contrast between the two figures, that it was found absolutely necessary to conceal the form of Justice in a vest of bronze. In consequence of this alteration, the completeness of the contrast is injured, and the monument has now assumed a tendency towards caricature, or conceit, not fitting to be seen in such a place. But under any circumstances, a work that exhibits Prudence in the shape of deformity—one of the first of virtues under the least engaging aspect—seemed to me, I must confess, rather out of place in a christian cathedral.

Neither could I prevail upon myself to admire the figure of St. Peter, seated in the chair which is said to have belonged originally to the Apostle himself. The scepticism of Lady Morgan on this point called forth a very ingenious *brochure* from the pen of my friend, Dr. Wiseman, the president of the English college at Rome, which certainly does present very plausible grounds for the belief of those persons who are anxious to cling to the traditions respecting that relic of the olden times. Even if my friend, whose learning may be said to be truly Catholic, for it is universal, were right in all his conclusions, they would not prevent me from wishing to see that monument transferred as a curiosity to the Vatican, rather than presented amidst so many *altars* to the veneration of the people.

I hardly know what to set down as the result of my first feeling of disappointment in not having found any painted windows, or, indeed, any thing that could be deemed a window at all, in St. Peter's. I am aware that these are essentially Gothic ornaments, and that, therefore, I ought not to have expected to find them in an edifice from the plan of which the Gothic order has been entirely excluded. It must, I think, be admitted that the unchequered plainness of the glass, and the diminutive size of the windows, must be altogether overlooked by those who would wish to keep in their recollection impressions worthy of the sublime temple itself. This circumstance

demonstrates that an imperfection lurks in that part of the design which still requires revision.

The streets of Rome wore an ascetic appearance, notwithstanding the gay crowds which are to be seen every afternoon in the Corso. This, perhaps, is, in some measure, to be attributed to the great number of ecclesiastics, who may be seen passing and repassing everywhere at all hours of the day. But in addition to the effect arising from the presence of so many clerical habits, there is a severity of feature about Rome itself which is very striking. I did not at all object to it, rather the reverse; it looks the more Roman on that account; and I even thought, though perhaps it may be deemed a fancy, that the same austere Tacitus or Sallust style of expression appertained to the Sabine and other hills in the neighbourhood of the "eternal city."

The real minister of England at the court of Rome is Cardinal Weld, so far as all the departments of a British legation are concerned, which are in any way connected with the convenience and protection of our sojourners in that capital. We have, indeed, a Consul-general at that station—a very respectable and obliging person, who is uniformly prepared to show every attention in his power to his countrymen. But it is obvious that a gentleman, to whom fees are to be paid for his services, and whose business, as a banker and general merchant, necessarily occupies much of his time, is not exactly the kind of officer to whom an English traveller should be obliged to apply, if he required aid against any act of the Roman authorities, or wished to be presented to the sovereign.

One of the gentlemen attached to the British legation at Florence usually resides at Rome, and conducts the correspondence which semi-officially passes between the papal court and the government of Great Britain. Occasions are constantly arising for such correspondence. For instance, when the French Government determined on occupying Ancona, in order to prevent Austria from interfering exclusively

with the view of suppressing the insurrectionary spirit that had broken out at Bologna and elsewhere, it became unavoidable that our government also should take its part in the discussions that arose out of those transactions. Our advice was earnestly solicited on the occasion by the Holy Father, and unless we chose to abdicate the influence which we have derived from our station in the world, we could not have avoided returning a decorous reply to his application. Accordingly our Ministers did give his Holiness, at that period, the best advice which the circumstances of the times seemed to demand. It was, in substance, that the complaints of the insurgents ought to be listened to, and their real grievances redressed. The discontent was manifestly produced by the system of local government, which prevailed throughout the States, administered entirely by ecclesiastics and upon ecclesiastical principles; whereas the taxes where chiefly paid by the lay portion of the community, who had no control over the appropriation of the funds so constituted. It was not to be doubted that this system was wrong in principle: that laymen ought to be admitted to the temporal offices of the government, and the clergy restrained within the sphere of functions strictly spiritual. Now the British Government had no accredited officer at Rome, through whose hands this advice could be conveyed. It was transmitted in a latent sort of channel, as if we were ashamed or afraid of having any thing to do with the Court of Rome!

Again, the concession of a constitution by the king of the Sicilies to his people was not long since openly spoken of at the Court of Naples, as an affair already arranged. The young king, soon after his accession to the throne, was really anxious to establish free institutions, to form a United Parliament for the two Sovereignties, to introduce extensive reforms into the whole system of his jurisprudence, and to construct a cabinet composed of enlightened men of the day, to the utter exclusion of those antiquated courtiers, who have witnessed

the revolutions of the last half century, without changing a single idea in their minds, and without comprehending the possibility of improvement without destruction.

These resolutions on the part of the king alarmed the court of Vienna; for if a parliament were sitting at Naples, the people in Northern Italy would soon demand a similar constitution. Troops were actually prepared to march to Naples, with the view of preventing the establishment of a liberal form of government in that country; and for this purpose it became necessary to negotiate with the Roman court for the passage of the Austrian cohorts through the states. A single word from England, addressed to the Pope, would have disconcerted that project against the liberties of the Neapolitan and Sicilian people; but we had no representative at Rome through whom that word could be officially spoken!

Unfortunately, the menace produced the desired result. Prince Leopold, the king's uncle, a most subservient Austrian in politics, and the Austrian minister at Naples, again recovered their usual ascendancy; the king had nothing to do but to turn devotee, and submit himself to the control of three priests: Capriolo, who was the secretary of the council; Cocle, his own confessor; and Scotti, the preceptor of his brother, the prince Luigi. Thus Austria rules the whole of Italy, and this, in a very great measure, because we have no resident minister at Rome!

The attaché of the British legation at Florence, who lives in Rome, holds no character at the latter court. He is not accredited to it in any way. He cannot present an Englishman to the Pope. He cannot do a single public act. Whatever business he performs of a diplomatic nature is done "under the rose;" "winked at" by both the governments, as if they were both conscious of being engaged in some criminal proceedings in the character of accomplices, apprehensive every moment of discovery, capture, public exposure, and ignominious punishment! While this absurd and injurious

system prevails, every Englishman who goes to Rome must feel that he is personally degraded by it, for unless he happen to have the good fortune of knowing Cardinal Weld, or can venture to solicit a favour from an English gentleman, invested with a foreign dignity, to whom he is an entire stranger, he has no advantageous mode of obtaining a presentation at court.

I need not observe that his Eminence is always accessible to his countrymen, and seems never so happy as when he can oblige them in any way. But this is not the footing upon which the relations between the two countries should be permitted to remain. Cardinal Weld is, I believe, the only Englishman who has been admitted into the sacred college since the "Reformation," with the exception of one of the members of the Stuart family. A similar event may not again occur for a century. Are our affairs, then, to be confided to a merchant who has no station in the diplomatic circle, and to a fugitive attaché from Florence, who is almost afraid to be seen at the Vatican?

I may speak the more freely on this subject, as having long enjoyed the pleasure of being known to the Cardinal and to Lord Clifford, his near relative and my esteemed friend, who usually resides with his Eminence at the Odescalchi palace; I enjoyed every facility of presentation at court, and of obtaining admission to all the circles and institutions which I felt any desire to visit. But I saw at Rome numbers of my countrymen who were placed in a very different position; a position too, of which they loudly and justly complained, as a very mortifying one, feeling that all other foreigners had accredited ministers to look up to, and that the want of similar protection seriously affected their means of procuring introduction to the higher ranks of society.

On the first day of the new year, I attended high mass at the Sistine Chapel, which was celebrated by Cardinal Franzoni, prefect of the Propaganda. The Pope was present, at-

tended by twenty-five cardinals, and about twenty bishops. Among the former, I noticed with peculiar interest Cardinal Fesch, in whose countenance I perceived a striking resemblance to the best portraits I had seen of Napoleon. The mass was sung by the Pope's choir in the most admirable style. There was a remarkably slender, delicate, and sweetly-modulated voice in the choir on that occasion, which I supposed to be the voice of a boy or of a eunuch. But, to my surprise, I learned afterwards from Cardinal Weld, that it belonged to the father of a large family, a rubicund Boniface-looking sort of a chorister, who, by some peculiar good fortune, has never lost the tones of his youth. The chapel was crowded. I happened to sit in the tribune near the altar by the side of a monk whom I had known in Spain, and who, before the service began, entertained me with an account of the prospects of Don Carlos in one part of the Peninsula, and of Don Miguel in the other. He was perfectly convinced that both the princes were *saints*, and that, *therefore*, they would recover their thrones to a certainty. Don Miguel, by having recalled the act of abdication, which he signed in Portugal, had forfeited his title to the handsome income which had been secured to him under the provisions of the quadruple treaty; he was, in consequence, living at that moment upon the bounty either of the Pope, or of some of the powers, who subscribed to the Roman treasury a sum of £300 per month, for his subsistence. As this revenue was a very precarious one, and did not allow the prince the means of fitting out a very splendid armament, I suggested to my friend that his prophecy, on that point at least, had no great chance of being realised. As to Don Carlos, matters looked more doubtful; but I thought that the one prince had about the same chance of a throne as the other. However, my monk had made up his mind on the subject, and kings they assuredly would be!

Vespers were celebrated on the same day in the church of the Jesuits, with a degree of splendour which I never saw

equalled. The altar and the whole sanctuary were illuminated to the very roof; the choir was assisted by the best organ in Rome; and the edifice, capacious as it is, was crowded in all directions. A sermon was preached by a member of the order, whose spare figure seemed wasted by intense study. His countenance was pale from habitual intellectual occupation; but when he gradually grew warm with his subject, which he treated in a masterly style of sacred eloquence, a light flashed from his eye that seemed to electrify his audience. He kept their attention suspended on his lips for a full hour, during which a breath was scarcely heard through the dense assemblage. Then came the benediction, with its accompanying prayer—the "O salutaris hostia," and that fine old anthem—the "Tantem ergo," which, when sung in the Gregorian note, I never hear without emotion.

Whoever wishes to obtain a good bird's-eye view of Rome and its vicinity, should ascend the tower of the Capitol. Thence, as from almost a central point, he may behold the distant hills of Albano, Frescati, Preneste, Terracina, Tivoli, the Sabines, Soracte, Mario, and Janiculum; the seven eminences upon which Rome was anciently constructed, the Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Celian, Palatine, Aventine, and Capitoline hills, and all the monuments now remaining of the pride of antiquity, as well as the splendid new edifices which rival or even excel them in costliness and grandeur.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Naples—A Pious Piper—The Chestnut-man—The Segretario—The Money-changer — The Small Commission — The Fish-broiler—The Porters—Maccaroni—The Toledo—Lotteries—The Sicilians — Neapolitan Reforms — Resistance—The Museum — Return Home—Expenses of my Journey.

I REGRETTED being obliged to leave Rome on the feast of the Epiphany (6th of January), as on that day masses were celebrated in the church of the Propaganda, by clergymen from every quarter of the globe—the most extraordinary as well as the most interesting exhibition which one could wish to witness. But there is no regular diligence—strange to say—between Rome and Naples; the only expeditious mode of travelling that route, for those who have not their own vehicle, is by Angrisani's post carriage, which goes as often as he can find passengers enough to fill it. It was engaged by three of my countrymen for this day, and I deemed myself fortunate in being able to secure the fourth place. The following evening I was established at the Albergo delle Crocelle, which I found a very comfortable hotel, though rather remote from the principal point of attraction in Naples—the Museum.

The great street of the Toledo presented to me the next day the most diversified and amusing scene I ever witnessed. Every body had a costume peculiar to itself, as if attending a carnival or a fancy ball. The sun, blazing in a cloudless sky, flung bright lights here and there, while the lofty houses cast their shadows in other quarters, as if to prepare a suitable stage for this national exhibition of character and occupation. A merry fellow, with a dozen tambourines ingeniously arranged and perched on his head, while he played on another he held in his hand, dressed in a cloth cap, a round jacket, a silk handkerchief neatly tied round his open shirt-collar, a blue waist-

coat, and red striped trowsers, invited the world to buy a charming beguiler of tears for the bambino at home. Next a green-grocery-man caught the eye: his donkey is laden with a mat sack, nicely balanced on both sides, having a large mouth, where cabbages, cauliflowers, salads, and celery, are heaped in verdant abundance. A sugar-loafed hat, flatted however at the top, is on his head over a worsted cap; his swarthy face and bare neck defy the sun; a pipe in his mouth, and a red waistcoat, a small pouch in front for his money, and short calico breeches, complete his apparel. No stockings hath he, nor shoe, nor sandal. He and his donkey seem to be real brothers.

A pious piper, who lives on charity, begins the labours of the day before some shrine of the Virgin, where a lamp is perpetually burning. His instrument, composed of three tubes, with trumpet extremities, derive their melody from a bag of wind which he fills from the proper wind of his own lungs. His pointed hat is clapped on the top of his bag while he is playing his propitiating prayer for success. His nightcap is displayed on his innocent cerebellum, his curly long hair flowing beneath it, and showing off his ruddy and distended cheek. His green coat, sleeveless mantle of goat-skin, and ash-coloured breeches, a piece of linen wrapped round his legs for stockings, and kept there by leathern thongs, which also secure his sandals, show that he has not been blowing to the shrine in vain. In fact, he looks a very respectable tradesman in his way. No man need be ashamed to beg after such a fashion as that.

Venders of roast smoking chestnuts are a numerous tribe in the Toledo. They have prescriptive stations, where they fix their stalls, within which a small charcoal fire is always burning, and communicates its heat to a basket filled with the fruit, placed on the top, and covered with a blanket to keep the nuts quite hot. Whether men or women, these people seem to be a thrifty set, and well dressed. The man has a gay red worsted cap, a silk handkerchief tied tightly round his neck, a

fine yellow waistcoat, a green round jacket, blue inexpressibles, clean white stockings, neat shoes, a stool to stand upon, and a stool to sit upon, as business or relaxation may require. He cries out his wares at the very pitch of his voice, holding his left hand to his cheek to render it louder.

But have you seen the melon-man? There is a picture of independence. A ragged suit of loose short trowsers, a tolerably good waistcoat, yellow or sky-blue, as the case may happen to be, and some fragments of a shirt, are all he requires in the way of a wardrobe. A long board is balanced on his head, displaying the blushing fruit nicely sliced, and on the palm of his left hand, equally well poised, a shorter board exhibiting another sample of his merchandize, whilst in his right hand he gracefully waves a sprig of myrtle.

Who is he with that snug capote and hood, and some pretty little baskets piled one on another under his arm, running along bare-legged? A fisherman, who sells the most delicate fresh herrings in the world, just taken out of the neighbouring bay! The bottle-vender, whom he has almost knocked down in his haste, is a still greater curiosity. Long wooden pins are stuck all round in the edge of his basket, on which pins very thin flasks for oil or wine, with long necks, are fixed. He looks to be one of the high priests of Bacchus, with his merry face—always sure of a market, for the flasks are so speedily broken that he can scarcely supply all his customers.

The segretario is a perfect picture. Seated at his table in a quiet entry, in a retired corner of a street, with a wise-looking old hat shading his grey locks, spectacles perched on his nose, paper, and well-mended pens, and ink-bottle, sand and wafers, arranged in due order before him, he waits to indite a petition, or a love letter, or a letter from a sailor to his mother, or from a creditor to a debtor, or to translate from Italian into French, or from French into Italian, a law paper, or a memorandum of accounts,—he is prompt at all things, methodical, confidential,

a clear-headed clean writer,—a very valuable sort of person in his way, who always attracted my particular respect, on account of the unwearied patience with which he waited for his customers, who were too "few and far between."

The pride of the Toledo are assuredly the money-changers—at least in their own opinion. They are almost universally females, and it is a part of their trade to display their riches in the ornaments on their persons. The hair, carefully braided, is tied under a dashing silk handkerchief, knotted in front in a somewhat coquettish style. The broad forehead, and sharp well-practised eye, and intelligent face, pretty well show that if her ladyship make any mistake in the reckoning, it will not be on the wrong side. There she sits on a chair before her strong box, on the top of which little baskets, overfilled with silver or copper coins, are arranged. A pair of massive gold —*real* gold-rings and large pendants dangle from her ears. Her open neck displays a coral or pearl necklace, and an embroidered kerchief. A velvet or gros de Naples spencer, a chintz gown, a handsome silk apron, fingers covered all over with rings set with precious stones—sometimes even with diamonds—attract customers on all sides. The itinerant trader who disposes of all his stock early, and is laden with copper pence, realizes his gains in silver at her table, on which she receives her small commission. The house-keeper who is passing by, and wants to buy some trifling things, gets change in copper for silver, on which the small commission is freely paid. The neighbouring shops that want accommodation in either way, copper for silver, silver for copper, copper and silver for gold, or gold for silver, in any quantity, are sure of finding all they want at the money-changer's stall. A most smilnig, happy, unspeculative tribe of bankers are they. If you look at one of them, she will expect you to pay her a small commission—which small commission in time accumulates to a very handsome fortune, to go down, always aug-

menting, from generation to generation. An umbrella fixed on her counter forms a canopy over her head, to protect her highness from the sun.

Not quite so opulent, but much more captivating, are the female venders of fried fish—magnificent-looking women fresh from the sea-side, whence they have come in the early morning. You may know them by their yellow-plaided neckkerchiefs, their gipsey-looking faces, their snow-white linen sleeves tucked up to the bend of the beautiful arm, their red-striped aprons and blue gowns. Of these syrens let the fish-hater beware. With her earthen pan, in which a charcoal fire is kept alive by a fan of rushes, her soles or herrings smoking and browning on the said fire, the basket of dried flags covered with fresh green flags by her side filled with "live" fish, cooling in beds of fresh rushes—her bonny figure seated on a stool, and her well-dressed dangerous feet peeping out beneath her long petticoat, St. Anthony himself could scarcely refuse to take a fry or two from those clean taper fingers. She holds the fish on a skewer, and turns the little martyr round and round, until he is done to a turn, the mouth watering while the fragrant odour breathes around!

The egg-woman is a more quiet kind of body, though she too seems to be sitting for her picture, dressed in her tidy green apron, her russet gown and linen sleeves, her ruby kerchief negligently flung over her head, and flowing over her shoulders behind. Next comes shouting his "oil to sell," a great farmer's-boy-looking sort of a fellow, in a gay straw hat. A goat-skin sack of oil is tied round his left shoulder, through the tail of which he admits the smooth liquid to descend into brass pint or half-pint, or smaller measure, for the customers whom he has the happiness to serve.

The porters are now the only remaining representatives of the Lazzaroni to be seen at Naples. They form a kingdom within themselves, of which every individual is monarch "of all he surveys." One of these putting down his oblong square

flag basket on its end, dressed in his shirt open half-way down his sunburnt hairy breast, where also the scapular—his amulet—makes its appearance, and further decked out in his loose cotton trowsers that scarcely descend below the knee, bound tight at the waist by a red cotton handkerchief, his blue jacket suspended on the very end of his shoulder, his face and huge whiskers crowned by a red cap, his long pipe in his mouth supported by his left hand, his right holding his well-worn cords resting on the other end of his perpendicular basket, while his brawny naked legs and feet betray his occupation, stands looking at the passing scene with an air of ineffable contempt. When he has done smoking, and imagines that he has sufficiently vindicated his dignity by attitudinizing, he will place his basket flat on the ground, and go to sleep in it until a job comes to summon him from his slumbers.

At every corner of every street there is a stall for maccaroni, where it may be seen served out from morning to night in all sorts of ways—hot or cold, in its own plain soup, or in savoury soup, or mingled with a little stew, or simply boiled, or baked, or in cakes, or in elongated ropes of about a mile in length. When graced by the savoury soup, it seems to be most popular. It is handed out smoking hot to the ragged customer, in an earthen dish; he, without any ceremony, takes up the maccaroni in his hand, and introducing the extremities of three or four ropes at once into his thorax, lifts his hands high in air, and the whole dishful vanishes in a trice. The soup is drunk at discretion, either with a wooden spoon, or *ex abrupto* out of the dish itself; the latter more expeditious mode of proceeding being usually preferred.

The water-vender is met with every where, and at all hours of the day. The ice-man is more stationery, though equally persevering. Here the female restorer of old chairs is busy with her rushes. There the smirking milliner's maid is tripping it on the fantastic toe with a band-box in her hand—she is wholly French—and out of keeping, in her trim cap and

ribbons, with such a scene. Every body lives in the street. The baker's shop is thrown so much open, that all the mysteries of his art are conducted in public. It is the same with the tinman, whose hammer never ceases to hammer; the blacksmith, whose bellows are perpetually blowing, whose fire, in the hottest day, still burns on as fierce as ever, and whose anvil never gets a moment's rest all the day long. All the gay shops are in the Toledo. All the pretty women of Naples show off in the Toledo. There the idler constantly lounges—there the merchants meet on business—there the military men are riding or walking up and down in their splendid uniforms.

The number of lottery-shops in the Toledo, and indeed in every street of Naples, is surprising. There is a new lottery every fortnight, if not every week; and the bureaus are so much frequented the whole of the day, that a stranger would suppose the principal occupation of Neapolitan life is speculation in lottery-tickets, or rather lottery numbers, for the chances are created in this way; the buyer chooses two, or three, or more numbers, according to the extent of his gambling disposition, say, 32, 87, 92, or any other series he likes best within the range of 200 or 300, comprised in the adventure. Upon each of the numbers which he selects he bets as much as he pleases, within a limited sum, which he pays down. If any of his numbers be drawn a prize, he receives three or four times the amount of his wager.

If I ever entertained any doubts as to the bad effect of lotteries, especially on the less affluent orders of society, who seemed to be the principal customers of the offices at Naples, the crowds of disappointed mothers and fathers of wretched families, whom I have seen returning from these *royal* establishments on the days when the prize numbers were proclaimed, would have dissipated all such doubts in a moment. These lottery schemes, I regret to add, seem to yield a constantly increasing revenue to the crown; it is understood that the king has already, since his accession, realized in this way

upwards of a million and a half of money, which, instead of being applied to the public service, though it stands much in need of assistance, he has deposited as his own private property in the funds of France and England, in order to secure a safe retreat for himself in the event of a revolution, of which he is extremely apprehensive.

Nevertheless I learned, from well-informed quarters, that the Neapolitan people, generally speaking, are not yet prepared for any violent changes. They would be content, it is imagined, if the council of ministers were so composed as to represent, in some degree, the new ideas and wishes of the age, instead of prejudices now a century old. Having been obliged to pay dearly to Austria, in the shape of indemnities for the expenses of the revolution of 1821, they are not disposed, it is thought, soon to try a similar experiment.

It is, however, very certain, that in Sicily serious discontent prevails, ad is very likely to explode in insurrection, unless the grievances of the country be redressed, and that, too, with no niggard hand. The Sicilians are still obliged to pay an amount of taxation fixed in proportion to the price of corn in 1815-16, while the war prices still existed. Nothing can be more unjustifiable than the continuance of such a standard as that, inasmuch as at the present day, they do not receive for their wheat above one-third of the price which they then obtained. The irritation arising out of this system of impost is not a little aggravated by the traditionary odium, which has always alienated the Sicilians from the Neapolitans.

The king, who by the way is at length said to have some hope of a family, has moreover gained the reputation of being extremely avaricious. He is governed by his uncle, Leopold, who is the viceroy of the Austrian ambassador, and neither of these persons seems inclined to listen, for a moment, to any proposition of a reforming tendency. A government consisting of a few men of talent and moderation, acquainted with the spirit of the times, might render great services to the

two kingdoms. Without touching fundamental institutions, they have abundance of margin in these institutions, even as they now exist, for the introduction of great and beneficial gradual improvements. The realm of Naples has its Provincial Councils, which exercise some degree of control over the taxation of the country, at least so far as every species of local expenditure is concerned. The remonstrances of these councils go direct to the king, without passing through the hands of any minister, and are almost uniformly attended to. The Code Napoleon prevails, and the influence of that body of civil law is every where inclining towards democracy, on account of the perpetual division and subdivision of property which it enjoins. The king, however, checks that tendency as much as he can, by assuming to himself a dispensing power, by which he renders the law inoperative in particular cases. This usurpation meets with no resistance from the judicial authorities. The number of judges and administrators of the law, in various capacities, is enormous; they are all badly paid, and of course submissive to the court, as well as venal to the people. In the Neapolitan kingdom also, landed property is excessively taxed. The palaces are vigilantly secured at all points by Swiss guards; and a whole park of artillery is so arranged that it may be brought to bear in a moment on any large masses of the people that could by possibility be collected. All these things, taken inconnection with what has lately happened in Portugal and Spain, sufficiently indicate an approaching crisis at Naples, for which, I suppose, with the usual blindness of a court taken up more with its own heart-burnings and intrigues than with the interests of the country, the authorities will wait, when a sudden, uncalculating, and sanguinary commotion shall probably rouse the whole kingdom from its lethargy.

The Museum alone, with its matchless and almost countless statues taken from the ruins of Herculaneum and Pompeii, and collected from other sources; its halls replete with the

ornaments and utensils of ancient times, gathered from those splendid cities embalmed through long ages by the lava and the ashes of Vesuvius, as if purposely set apart for the information of our age; its splendid galleries of paintings; its marbles, and bronzes, and libraries, and scrolls recovered from the fires of two thousand years ago; these and an endless variety of other objects well worth examination, ought to detain the traveller, and keep him constantly occupied for months in Naples; upon the whole the most agreeable city I have ever visited. There is a festive cheerfulness about the streets; a purity in the air, arising, doubtless, from the proximity of the finest bay in the world open to the Mediterranean, which I have not experienced elsewhere.

And then, what still remains? Vesuvius—Herculaneum—Pompeii, the most interesting objects, within view of each other, to be found on the globe. When these scenes are well explored, there are still Pozzuoli, Baiæ, Cuma, Castellamare, Sorento, Salerno, Pœstum, the islands Capri, Procida, and Ischia, to furnish days, almost years, of amusement, scarcely to be exhausted. I confined myself to those which I could visit at my leisure—the volcano—its victims now unshrouded in their tombs—the haunts of the old Romans, and the sacred abode of the sybils.

I then (19th January 1835), embarked in the bay on board the *San Francesco* steamer, coasted along the shore of Italy to Genoa, proceeded over Mount Cenis to Geneva, Dijon, Paris, and London, where, on the 5th of February, I felt myself once more in the bosom of my family.

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EXPENSES OF MY JOURNEY.

As some of my readers might wish to make the same journey which I have performed, and to know, before-hand, the road expenses they would be likely to incur, I subjoin a note of these matters.

	Fr.	Cts.
Fare by steam-boat to Boulogne	35	—
Do. to Paris by diligence	50	—
Do. in diligence to Strasbourg	85	25
Do. in diligence to Baden	9	—
Do. from Baden to Carlsruhe	5	—
Do. from Carlsruhe to Ulm	30	—
Do. from Ulm to Munich	32	—
Do. from Munich to Vienna	70	—
Expenses of posting from Vienna to Pesth . .	108	—
Fare in Steam-boat from Pesth to Moldava . .	43	—
Do. in Fishing-boat to Orsova	4	—
Fare in steam-boat from Gladova to Argulgradt .	34	50
Do. in Zantiote-boat from Argulgradt to Rutshuk	10	—
Paid for horses from Rutschuck to Constantinople.	604	—
Usual charge for Caique from Pera to Therapia .	9	70
Do. from Therapia to Constantinople	9	70
Fare in sailing-packet from Constantinople to Smyrna	80	—
Passed in Hinde cutter, from Smyrna to Vourla .	—	—
Do. in H.M.S. Portland, from Vourla to Napoli .	—	—
Paid for horses from Napoli to Epidaurus . . .	9	—

Fare in boat from Epidaurus to the Piræus . .	6	—
Paid for horses from the Piræus to Athens . .	3	—
Do. from Athens to Corinth	20	—
Do. from Corinth to Patras	35	—
Fare in Austrian packet from Patras to Corfu . .	57	—
Do. from Corfu to Trieste	118	—
Fare in steam-boat from Trieste to Venice . .	25	—
Do. in diligence from Venice to Ferrara . . .	56	—
Do. from Ferrara to Bologna	8	—
Do. in Courier's carriage from Bologna to Rome .	145	—
Do. in Angrisani's carriage, from Rome to Naples	76	—
Do. in steam-boat from Naples to Genoa . . .	175	—
Do. in diligence from Genoa to Turin. . . .	40	—
Do. in Courier's carriage from Turin to Geneva .	131	—
Do. in diligence from Geneva to Paris . . .	78	—
Do. from Paris to Calais	63	—
Do. in steam-boat from Calais to Dover . . .	7	—
Do. in mail from Dover to London	43	—

*** Twenty-five francs may be generally assumed as equivalent to a sovereign. *Personal* expenses will, of course, depend much on circumstances. They may be set down at ten or twelve francs per day. The expenses of passports, porterage, and of other small charges, may be estimated, for the whole journey, at about 100 francs. The fare in the Danube *steam-boat*, from Gladova to Galacz, is about 50 francs, and in a sailing packet, from Smyrna to the Piræus, about 40 francs.

APPENDIX.

A.

TREATY OF ALLIANCE CONCLUDED BETWEEN RUSSIA AND TURKEY ON THE 8th OF JULY, 1833.

In the Name of Almighty God.

Traduction.

S. M. I. le très haut et très puissant Empereur et Autocrat de toutes les Russies, et S. H. le très haut et très puissant Empereur des Ottomans, également animés du sincère désir de maintenir le système de paix et de bonne harmonie heureusement établies entre les deux Empires, ont resolu d'étendre et de fortifier la parfaite amitié et la confiance qui régnent entre eux, par la conclusion d'un Traité d'Alliance défensive.

En conséquence LL.MM. ont choisi et nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir, S. M. l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, le très excellent et très honorable le Sieur Alexis Comte Orloff, son Ambassadeur Extraordinaire près la Sublime Porte Ottomane, etc. etc.

Translation.

His Imperial Majesty the most high and most puissant Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, and his Highness the most high and most puissant Emperor of the Ottomans, equally animated by a sincere desire to maintain the system of peace and good harmony happily established between the two Empires, have resolved to extend and to strengthen the perfect amity and confidence which reign between them by the conclusion of a Treaty of defensive Alliance.

In consequence, their Majesties have chosen and nominated as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say, his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the most excellent and the most honourable Alexis Count Orloff, his Ambassador Extraordinary at the Sublime Ottoman Porte, etc. etc.

Et le Sieur Appolinaire Bouteneff, son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plenipotentiaire près la Sublime Porte Ottomane, etc. etc.

Et S. H. le Sultan des Ottomans, le très illustre et très excellent le plus ancien de ses Visirs, Hosrew-Mehmet Pacha, Seraskier Commandant en chef des troupes de Ligne régulières, et Gouverneur-Général de Constantinople, etc. etc.; les très excellens et très honorables Ferzi-Achmet Pacha, Mouchir et Commandant de la Garde de S. H. etc. etc.; et Hadji-Mehmet-Akif Effendi, Reis Effendi actuel, etc.

Lesquels, après avoir échangé leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et de forme, sont convenus des Articles suivants.

ARTICLE I.

Il y aura à jamais Paix, Amitié, et Alliance entre S. M. l'Empereur de toutes les Russies et S. M. l'Empereur des Ottomans, leurs Empires et leurs Sujets, tant sur terre que sur mer. Cette Alliance ayant uniquement pour objet la défense commune de leurs états contre tout empiétement, LL. MM. promettent de s'entendre sans réserve sur tous les objets qui concernent leur tranquillité et sûreté respectives, et de se prêter à cet effet mutuellement des secours matériels et l'assistance la plus efficace.

And Mr. Appolinaire Bouteneff, his Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Sublime Ottoman Porte, etc. etc.

And his Highness the Sultan of the Ottomans, the most illustrious and most excellent the oldest of his Viziers, Hosrew-Mehmet Pacha, Seraskier Commander-in-chief of the regular Troops of the Line, and Governor-general of Constantinople, etc. etc.; the most excellent and the most honourable Ferzi-Achmet Pacha, Mouchir and Commander of his Highness's Guard, etc. etc.; and Hadji-Mehmet-Akif Effendi, actual Reis Effendi, etc. etc.

Who, after having exchanged their full powers, which have been found in good and regular form, have agreed upon the following Articles.

ARTICLE I.

There shall be for ever Peace, Amity, and Alliance between H. M. the Emperor of all the Russias, and H. M. the Emperor of the Ottomans, their Empires and their Subjects, as well by land as by sea. This Alliance having solely for its object the common defence of their States against all attack, their Majesties promise to have a mutual and unreserved understanding as to all objects which concern their tranquillity and safety respectively, and to lend to each other for this purpose *matériel* succours and the most efficacious assistance.

ARTICLE II.

Le Traité de Paix conclu à Andrinople le 2 Septembre, 1829, ainsi que tous les autres Traités qui y sont compris, de même aussi la Convention signée à St. Pétersbourg le 14 Avril, 1830, et l'arrangement conclu à Constantinople le 9 (21) Juillet, 1832, rélatif à la Grèce, sont confirmés dans toute leur teneur par le présent Traité d'Alliance défensive, comme si les dites Transactions y avaient été insérées mot pour mot.

ARTICLE III.

En conséquence du principe de conservation et de défense mutuelle qui sert de base au présent Traité d'Alliance, et par suite du plus sincère désir d'assurer la durée, le maintien, et l'entière indépendance de la Sublime Porte, S. M. l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, dans le cas où les circonstances qui pourraient déterminer de nouveau la S. Porte à réclamer l'assistance navale et militaire de la Russie, venaient à se présenter, quoique ce cas ne soit nullement à prévoir, s'il plaît à Dieu, promet de fournir par terre et par mer autant de troupes et de forces que les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes le jugeraient nécessaire. D'après cela, il est convenu qu'en ce cas les forces de terre et de mer dont la S. Porte réclamerait le secours, seront tenues à sa disposition.

ARTICLE II.

The Treaty of Peace concluded at Adrianople on the 2d of September, 1829, as well as all the other Treaties comprised in it, as well as the Convention signed at St. Petersburgh on the 14th of April, 1830, and the arrangement concluded at Constantinople on the 9th (21st) of July, 1832, relative to Greece, are confirmed throughout all their tenour by the present Treaty of defensive Alliance, as if the said Transactions had been inserted in it word for word.

ARTICLE III.

In consequence of the principle of conservation and of mutual defence which serves as the basis for the present Treaty of Alliance, and by reason of the most sincere desire to assure the duration, the maintenance, and the entire independence of the Sublime Porte, H. M. the Emperor of all the Russias, in case that circumstances which might again determine the Sublime Porte to claim naval and military aid from Russia should occur, although the case be not now foreseen, if it please God, promises to furnish by land and sea as many troops and forces as the contracting parties shall deem necessary. It is accordingly agreed that in this case the forces by land and sea whose assistance the Sublime Porte shall demand, shall be held at its disposal.

ARTICLE IV.

Selon ce qui a été dit plus haut, dans le cas où l'une des deux Puissances aura réclamé l'assistance de l'autre, les frais seulsd'approvisionnement pour les forces de terre et de mer qui seraient fournies tomberont à la charge de la Puissance qui aura demandé le secours.

ARTICLE IV.

According to what has been said above, in case one of the two Powers shall have demanded assistance from the other, the expenses only of provisions for the forces by land and sea which shall have been furnished shall fall to the charge of the Power which shall have demanded the succour.

ARTICLE V.

Quoique les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes soient sincèrement intentionnées de maintenir cet engagement jusqu'au terme le plus éloigné, comme il se pourrait que dans la suite les circonstances exigeassent qu'il fût apporté quelques changemens à ce Traité, on est convenu de fixer sa durée à huit ans, à dater du jour de l'échange des Ratifications Impériales. Les deux Parties, avant l'expiration de ce terme, se concerteront suivant l'état où seront les choses à cette époque, sur le renouvellement dudit Traité.

ARTICLE V.

Although the two High Contracting Powers be sincerely disposed to maintain this engagement to the most remote period, inasmuch however as it is possible that hereafter circumstances may require some alterations in this Treaty, it has been agreed that its duration should be fixed at eight years, to run from the date of the exchange of the Imperial Ratifications. The two Parties, before the expiration of that term, shall agree, according to the state in which things shall be at that epoch, upon the renewal of the Treaty.

ARTICLE VI.

Le présent Traité d'Alliance défensive sera ratifié par les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes, et les ratifications en seront échangées à Constantinople, dans le terme de deux mois, ou plutôt si faire se peut.

Le présent Instrument, contenant six Articles, et auquel il sera mis la dernière main par l'échange des ratifications respectives, ayant été arrêté entre

ARTICLE VI.

The present Treaty of defensive Alliance shall be ratified by the two High Contracting Parties, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Constantinople, within the period of two months, or sooner if possible.

The present Instrument, containing six Articles, and to which the last hand shall be put by the exchange of the respective ratifications, having

nous, nous l'avons signé et scellé de nos Sceaux, en vertu de nos pleins pouvoirs, et délivré, en échange contre un autre pareil, entre les mains des Plénipotentiaires de la Sublime Porte Ottomane.

Fait à Constantinople, le 26 Juin, l'an mil huit cent trente-trois (le 20 de la lune de Safer, l'an 1249 de l'Hégire).

(Signé)
CTE. ALEXIS ORLOFF.(L.S.)
(Signé)
A. BOUTENEFF.(L.S.)

been drawn up between us, we have signed and sealed it with our Seals, in virtue of our full powers, and delivered, in exchange for another of the like tenour, into the hands of the Plenipotentiaries of the Sublime Ottoman Porte.

Done at Constantinople, the 26th of June (8th of July), in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three (the 20th of the moon of Safer, in the year 1249 of the Hegira).

(Signed)
COUNT ALEXIS ORLOFF.(L. S.)
(Signed)
A. BOUTENEFF.(L.S.)

Separate Article of the Treaty of Alliance concluded between Russia and Turkey, on the 8th of July, 1833.

En vertu d'une des clauses de l'Article 1er du Traité Patent d'Alliance défensive conclu entre la Sublime Porte et la Cour Impériale de Russie, les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes sont tenues de se prêter mutuellement des secours matériels et l'assistance la plus efficace pour la sûreté de leurs états respectifs. Néanmoins, comme S.M. l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, voulant épargner à la Sublime Porte Ottomane la charge et les embarras qui résulteraient pour elle de la prestation d'un secours matériel, ne demandera pas ce secours si les circonstances mettaient la S. Porte dans l'obligation de le fournir, *la Sublime Porte Ottomane à la place des secours qu'elle doit prêter au besoin*

In virtue of one of the clauses of the First Article of the Patent Treaty of defensive Alliance concluded between the Sublime Porte and the Imperial Court of Russia, the two High Contracting Parties have engaged to lend mutually *matériel* succours and the most efficacious assistance for the safety of their respective states. Nevertheless, as H. M. the Emperor of all the Russias, wishing to save the Sublime Ottoman Porte the expense and the inconveniences which might result to it from lending such *matériel* succour, will not demand this succour should circumstances place the Sublime Porte under the obligations to furnish it, *the Sublime Porte, in lieu of the succour which it is*

d'après le principe de réciprocité du Traité Patent, devrait borner son action en faveur de la Cour Impériale de Russie à fermer le détroit des Dardanelles, c'est-à-dire à ne permettre à aucun bâtiment de guerre étranger d'y entrer sous aucun prétexte quelconque.

Le présent Article séparé et secret aura la même force et valeur que s'il était inséré mot à mot dans le Traité d'Alliance défensive de ce jour.

Fait à Constantinople le 26 Juin, l'an mil huit cent trente-trois (le 20 de la lune de Safer, l'an 1249 de l'Hégire).

(Signé)
CTE ALEXIS ORLOFF. (L.S.)
(Signé)
A. BOUTENEFF. (L.S.)

bound to lend in case of need according to the principle of reciprocity of the Patent Treaty, should limit its action in favour of the Imperial Court of Russia to shutting the strait of the Dardanelles, that is to say, not to permit any foreign vessel of war to enter it under any pretext whatsoever.

The present separate and secret Article shall have the same force and validity as if it were inserted word for word in the Treaty of defensive Alliance of this day.

Done at Constantinople the 26th of June (8th of July), in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three (the 20th of the moon of Safer, in the year 1249 of the Hegira).

(Signed)
COUNT ALEXIS ORLOFF. (L.S.)
(Signed)
A. BOUTENEFF. (L.S.)

B.

TREATY BEWEEN RUSSIA AND TURKEY, CONCLUDED AT ST. PETERSBURGH, BY ACHMET PACHA, ON THE 29th OF JANUARY, 1834.

Traduction.

Le très haut et très puissant Empereur Ottoman, mon bienfaiteur et maître, d'une part, et le très haut et très magnanime Empereur de toutes les Russies, de l'autre, animés du désir que leur inspirent l'amitié sincère, la securité et la confiance qui existent heureusement entre eux, d'arranger définitivement certains points du Traité conclu entre les deux Hautes

Translation.

The most high and most puissant Ottoman Emperor, my benefactor and master, on the one part, and the most high and most magnanimous Emperor of all the Russias, on the other, animated by the desire with which they are inspired by the sincere friendship, cordiality, and confidence, that happily exist between them, to arrange definitively

Puissances à Andrinople, lesquels n'ont pas été mis à exécution jusqu'à présent, ont nommé à cet effet pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir, sa Majesté l'Empereur Ottoman, Son Excellence Mouchir Ahmed Pacha, Conseiller Militaire du Sérail, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire de la Sublime Porte à la Cour Impériale de Russie, etc. etc.; et Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie, leurs Excellences le Comte Nesselrode, Vice-Chancelier de l'Empire, et le Comte Alexis Orloff, Général de Cavalerie, Aide-de-Camp de l'Empereur, etc. etc.; lesquels, après avoir montré réciproquement leurs pleins pouvoirs, sont convenus des Articles suivans :

ARTICLE I.

Les deux hautes Cours ayant jugé nécessaire d'etablir, ainsi qu'il est stipulé dans le Traité d'Andrinople, une ligne de démarcation entre les deux Empires dans l'Orient, capable de prévenir désormais toute espèce de disputes et de discussion, il a été convenu que l'on tracerait une ligne qui pût empêcher entièrement les déprédations que les peuplades circonvoisines commettaient, et qui ont plus d'une fois compromis les relations de voisinage et d'amitié entre les deux Empires. En conséquence, et après que des Commissaires de part et d'autre ont examiné les lieux, et pris des renseignemens à cet égard, les deux Parties Contractantes ont ré-

certain points of the Treaty concluded between the two High Powers at Adrianople, which have not been hitherto carried into execution, have named for this purpose as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say, H. M. the Ottoman Emperor, His Excellency Mouchir Ahmed Pacha, Military Counsellor of the Seraglio, Ambassador Extraordinary of the Sublime Porte at the Imperial Court of Russia, etc. etc. and H. M. the Emperor of Russia, their Excellencies the Count Nesselrode, Vice-Chancellor of the Empire, and the Count Alexis Orloff, General of Cavalry, Aide-de-Camp of the Emperor, etc. etc.; who, after having reciprocally shown their full powers, have agreed on the following Articles :

ARTICLE I.

The two high Courts having deemed it necessary to establish, as has been already stipulated in the Treaty of Adrianople, a line of demarcation between the two Empires in the East, such as may henceforth prevent every species of dispute and discussion, it has been agreed that a line should be traced that should completely obstruct the depredations which the neighbouring tribes have been in the habit of committing, and which have more than once compromised the relations of neighbourhood and friendship between the two Empires. Accordingly, and as Commissioners on both sides have examined the localities, and obtained the necessary in-

solu de procéder à la fixation des frontières de manière à ce que le but qu'on s'est sagement proposé dans le Traité d'Andrinople fût complètement rempli; et pour cela, elles ont adopté, de commun accord, la ligne que l'on voit tracée en couleur rouge dans la carte qui est jointe au présent Traité.

Conformément au IVme Article du Traité d'Andrinople, cette ligne part du Port de St. Nicolo, sur la côte de la Mer Noire, suit les frontières actuelles de la Province de Guriel, monte jusqu'aux confins d'Iuira, et de là elle traverse la Province d'Akhiskha, et elle aboutit au point où les Provinces d'Akhiskha et de Cars se réunissent à la Province de la Georgie. Ainsi la plus grande partie de la Province d'Akhiskha reste, avec les autres pays et terres dont il est question dans le dit Traité, sous la domination de la Sublime Porte, comme on voit par la carte, dont deux copies ont été faites et collationnées par les Plénipotentiaires des deux Puissances, et qui, considérées comme faisant partie du présent Traité, doivent y être jointes, pour y voir la manière dont les limites futures des deux Empires ont été fixées.

Après l'échange des ratifications du présent Traité, et aussitôt que l'on aura fait planter des poteaux par des Commissaires nommés de part et d'autre, d'après la ligne tracée

formation for this purpose, the two Contracting Parties have resolved to proceed to the settlement of the frontiers in such a way as that the object wisely laid down in the Treaty of Adrianople should be completely fulfilled; and with that view they have adopted, with common accord, the line which may be seen traced in red on the map which is appended to the present Treaty.

Conformably to the fourth Article of the Treaty of Adrianople, this line departs from Port St. Nicolo on the coast of the Black Sea, follows the actual frontiers of Guriel, ascends as far as the frontiers of Juira, thence traverses the Province of Akhiskha, and strikes the point where the provinces of Akhiskha and of Cars are reunited to the Province of Georgia. Thus the greatest part of the Province of Akhiskha remains, together with the other countries and territories mentioned in the said Treaty, under the dominion of the Sublime Porte, as may be seen by the map, of which two copies have been made and collated by the Plenipotentiaries of the two Powers, and which, considered as forming part of the present Treaty, are to be subjoined to it, as evidence of the manner in which the future limits of the two empires have been settled.

After the exchange of the ratifications of the present Treaty, and as soon as posts shall have been erected by the Commissioners named on both sides, according to the line

dans la carte, d'un bout à l'autre, les troupes Russes évacueront les terres situées au dehors de cette ligne, et se retireront dans les bornes qu'elle prescrit. De même les Mussulmans qui se trouvent dans les terres peu considérables qui sont comprises dans la ligne qui passe devant le Sandjack de Ghroubhan et des extremités des Sandjacks de Ponskron et de Djildir, lesquels voudront s'établir dans les terres de la Sublime Porte, pourront, dans le terme de dix-huit mois, à dater du jour de l'échange des Ratifications du Traité, finir les affaires qui les attachent au pays, et se transporter dans les Etats Turcs, sans que l'on y mette obstacle.

ARTICLE II.

Par l'Instrument fait séparément à Andrinople relativement aux Principautés de la Valachie et de la Moldavie, la Sublime Porte a pris l'engagement de reconnaître formellement les réglemens faits, pendant que les troupes Russes occupaient ces Provinces, par les principaux habitans sur leur administration intérieure; la Sublime Porte ne trouvant rien dans les Articles de cette Constitution qui puisse affecter ses droits de Souveraineté, consent dès à présent à reconnaître formellement ladite Constitution.

Elle s'engage à publier à cet égard un Firman, accompagné d'un Hatti Sherif, deux mois après l'échange des ratifica-

traced on the map, from one end to the other, the Russian troops shall evacuate the territories situated beyond that line, and shall retire within the limits which it prescribes. So also the Mussulmans who inhabit the inconsiderable territories which are comprised within the line that passes by the Sandjack of Ghroubhan and the extremities of the Sandjacks of Ponskron and of Djildir, and who may wish to establish themselves within the territories of the Sublime Porte, shall be at liberty, within the term of eighteen months from the date of the exchange of the ratifications of the Treaty, to arrange the affairs which attach them to the country, and to transport themselves to the Turkish States without molestation.

ARTICLE II.

By the Instrument executed separately at Adrianople relative to the Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia, the Sublime Porte had undertaken to recognize formally the regulations made, while the Russian troops occupied those Provinces, by the principal inhabitants with reference to their internal administration; the Sublime Porte, finding nothing in the Articles of that Constitution which can affect its rights of Sovereignty, consents henceforth to recognize formally the said Constitution.

It engages to publish in this respect a Firman, accompanied by a Hatti Sherif, two months after the exchange of ratifica-

tions, et à donner une copie du même à la Mission Russe à Constantinople.

Après la reconnaissance formelle de la Constitution, les Hospodars de Valachie et de Moldavie seront nommés, mais pour cette seule fois-ci, et comme un cas tout particulier, de la manière qui a été convenue, il y a quelque tems, entre les deux Puissances Contractantes, et ils commenceront à gouverner les deux Provinces conformément à la Constitution, laquelle est une suite des stipulations dont il a été parlé plus haut.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie voulant donner une nouvelle preuve des égards et de la considération qu'il a pour Sa Hautesse, et hâter le moment où la Sublime Porte usera des droits que les Traités lui assurent sur les deux Provinces, ordonnera à ses troupes, une fois que les Princes auront été nommés, de se retirer des deux Provinces. Ce point aura son exécution deux mois après la nomination des Princes. Et comme une compensation est due en toute justice pour les avantages que la Sublime Porte accorde par faveur aux Valaques et aux Moldaves, il est convenu et arrêté que le tribut annuel, que les deux Provinces doivent lui payer d'après les Traités, est fixé desormais à six mille bourses (c. a d. à trois millions de piastres Turques); et les Princes auront soin que cette somme lui soit payée annuellement, à compter du 1 Janvier, 1835.

tions, and to give a copy of the same to the Russian Mission at Constantinople.

After the formal recognition of the Constitution, the Hospodars of Wallachia and Moldavia shall be named, but for this time only, and as a case entirely peculiar, in the manner which was agreed upon some time ago between the two Contracting Powers, and they will proceed to govern the two Provinces conformably to the Constitution, in pursuance of the stipulations above mentioned.

His Majesty the Emperor of Russia wishing to afford a new proof of the regard and consideration which he entertains towards his Highness, and to hasten the moment when the Sublime Porte shall exercise the rights which the Treaties secure to it over the two Provinces, will order his troops, as soon as the Princes shall have been named, to retire from the two Provinces. This point shall be executed two months after the nomination of the Princes. And as a compensation is due in all justice for the advantages which the Sublime Porte grants as a favour to the Wallachians and Moldavians, it is agreed and ordained that the annual tribute, which the two Provinces ought to pay according to the Treaties, shall be fixed henceforth at six thousand purses (that is to say, at three millions of Turkish piastres); and the Princes shall take care that this sum be annually paid, counting from the 1st of January, 1835.

Il est convenu entre les deux Cours que le nombre des troupes, qui seront employées comme garnisons dans l'intérieur des deux Provinces, sera fixé d'une manière invariable et au gré de la Sublime Porte, et que celle-ci donnera les drapeaux aux garnisons, et le pavillon aux bâtimens marchands Valaco-Moldaves qui naviguent sur le Danube.

ARTICLE III.

Eu égard au désir témoigné par Sa Hautesse d'exécuter scrupuleusement les engagemens qu'elle a pris par le troisième Article de l'Acte explicatif et séparé qui fait suite aux Traité d'Andrinople, et par le Traité de Pétersbourg y rélatif, Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies a bien voulu offrir de nouvelles facilités dans l'exécution des engagemens imposés par les Actes ci-dessus mentionnés à la Sublime Porte, et par conséquent il est convenu :

1°. Que quoiqu'il ait été stipulé par le second Article du Traité de St. Pétersbourg, que la Sublime Porte payera annuellement, et pendant huit ans, un million de ducats de Hollande, elle ne payera que cinq cent mille ducats par an.

2°. Que la Sublime Porte n'est plus obligée, comme elle l'était jusqu'ici, de payer au mois de Mai de chaque année, et en une seule fois, tout l'argent qui était dû pour l'année, et qu'elle paiera desormais les

It is agreed between the two Courts that the number of troops, which shall be employed as garrisons in the interior of the two Provinces, shall be fixed in an invariable manner and with the approbation of the Porte, and that the latter is to give colours to the garrisons, and a flag to the Valacho-Moldavian merchant vessels which navigate the Danube.

ARTICLE III.

With respect to the desire manifested by His Highness to execute scrupulously the engagements which he has undertaken by the third Article of the explanatory and separate Act which is appended to the Treaty of Adrianople, and by the Treaty of Petersburgh relative thereto, H. M. the Emperor of all the Russias is most willing to afford to the Sublime Porte new facilities for the execution of the engagements imposed by the Acts above mentioned, and it is accordingly agreed :

1. That although it has been stipulated by the second Article of the Treaty of St. Petersburgh, that the Sublime Porte shall pay annually, and during eight years, one million of Dutch ducats, it shall pay only five hundred thousand ducats per annum.

2. That the Sublime Porte be no longer obliged, as it has hitherto been, to pay in the month of May, each year, and at one time only, the whole yearly sum, and that it shall

cinq cent mille ducats peu à peu, mais en entier dans l'intervalle du mois de Mai d'une année au mois de Mai de l'année suivante.

3°. Que Sa Majesté Impériale renonce à son droit de demander la différence, qu'il y avait à l'époque de chaque paiement de la portion des indemnités pour les frais de la guerre et pour le commerce, entre le prix auquel la Sublime Porte payait le ducat en piastres Turques, et la véritable valeur des ducats.

4°. Qu'en outre, Sa Majesté Impériale, prenant en considération les embarras dans lesquels le Trésor de cet Empire s'est trouvé dernièrement, consent à défalquer sur-le-champ deux millions de ducats, ce qui est le tiers du solde des indemnités pour les frais de la guerre.

5°. Que vu la défalcation ci-dessus énoncée et les autres dispositions dont il a été parlé plus haut, le total des indemnités est de quatre millions de ducats de Hollande, dont la première portion à payer dans un an, comme un a-compte, consiste en 500,000 ducats, et sera payée du 1er Mai, 1834, au 1er Mai, 1835, et les portions préalables dans les années suivantes seront payées de la même manière jusqu'à l'acquittement de la dette ; mais à condition que les assurances, les garanties, et les facilités stipulées par les Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, et 9, du Traité de St. Petersbourg conserveront

henceforth pay the five hundred thousand ducats by degrees, but the entire sum within the interval from the month of May of one year to the month of May in the following year.

3. That his Imperial Majesty renounces his right to demand the difference, which arose at the period of each payment of the portion of the indemnities for the expenses of the war and the commercial claims, between the price at which the Sublime Porte paid the ducat in Turkish piastres, and the real value of the ducats.

4. That moreover, his Imperial Majesty, taking into consideration the embarrassments in which the Treasury of that Empire has been lately involved, consents to the immediate defalcation of two millions of ducats, which is the third of the amount of the indemnities for the expenses of the war.

5. That, considering the defalcation above announced, and the other arrangements already mentioned, the sum total of the indemnities amounts to four millions of Dutch ducats, of which the first portion to be paid in one year, as one account, consists of 500,000 ducats, and which shall be paid from the 1st of May, 1834, to the 1st of May, 1835, and the corresponding portions in the following years shall be paid in the same manner until the whole debt be discharged; but upon the condition that the assurances, guarantees, and facilities stipu-

jusqu'alors toute leur vigueur, comme s'ils étaient insérés mot à mot dans le present Traité.

lated by Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 of the Treaty of St. Petersburgh shall preserve down to that period all their force, as if they had been inserted word for word in the present Treaty.

CONCLUSION.

En vertu des pouvoirs qui m'ont été donnés, j'ai conclu le présent Traité, qui sera ratifié par les deux Parties Contractantes, et dont les ratifications seront échangées à Constantinople dans le terme de six semaines, ou plus tôt si faire se pourra ; j'y ai apposé mon cachet, et mis ma signature, et je l'ai remis à leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires de la Cour de Russie à Pétersbourg, en échange de la pièce qu'ils m'ont remise.

Fait le 18 Ramazan, 1249.

CONCLUSION.

In virtue of the powers which have been given me, I have concluded the present Treaty, which shall be ratified by the Contracting Parties, and the ratification of which shall be exchanged at Constantinople, within the term of six weeks, or sooner if possible; I have affixed to it my seal and signature, and I have delivered it to their Excellencies the Plenipotentiaries of the Court of Russia at Petersburgh, in exchange for the counterpart which they have delivered to me.

Done the 18th Ramazan, 1249.

THE END.

BSB Bayerische StaatsBibliothek

MDZ Münchener DigitalisierungsZentrum Digitale Bibliothek

Quin, Michael J.,

A steam voyage down the Danube with sketches of Hungary, Willachia, Servia, Turkey, etc

Paris 1836

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